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WAR AND PLEAS

AT A SUMMIT IN RUSSIA, OBAMA WILL URGE RELUCTANT WORLD LEADERS TO SUPPORT A U.S.-LED STRIKE AGAINST SYRIA PAGE 8

Toronto: Now not hiring

The city is short-staffed in urban planning, public health, and IT — but it's not filling those positions PAGE 3

Learn + play + all day = success

All-day kindergarten graduates seem better prepared for Grade 1 PAGE 4

Wherefore art thou Romero?

Starting pitcher Ricky Romero recalled to Jays from minors despite a miserable season PAGE 33

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

TIFF to show stars like you've never seen them before

Radical roles. Toronto is a great place for actors to try out new ventures, festival artistic director says

There's glitz, glamour and reinvention on parade at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, where Hollywood heavyweights including Sandra Bullock, Matthew McConaughey, Daniel Radcliffe and Jude Law are among the stars unleashing radical roles that recast their well-worn images.

Challenging performances will mark this year's fest, predict programming bosses Piers Handling and Cameron Bailey, who touted a celeb-packed lineup.

Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts lead "an actor's showcase" in the family drama August: Osage County, sure to be one of the hottest titles when films begin unspooling Thursday.

"And they're all just at the top of their game," Bailey says of an ensemble rounded out by Ewan McGregor, Sam Shepard, Chris Cooper and Benedict Cumberbatch.

"It's got really meaty dialogue, great characters. I think those performances will definitely be noticed."

Envelope-pushing performances are expected from McConaughey and Jared Leto in the Dallas Buyers Club, for which both "underwent remarkable physical transformations."

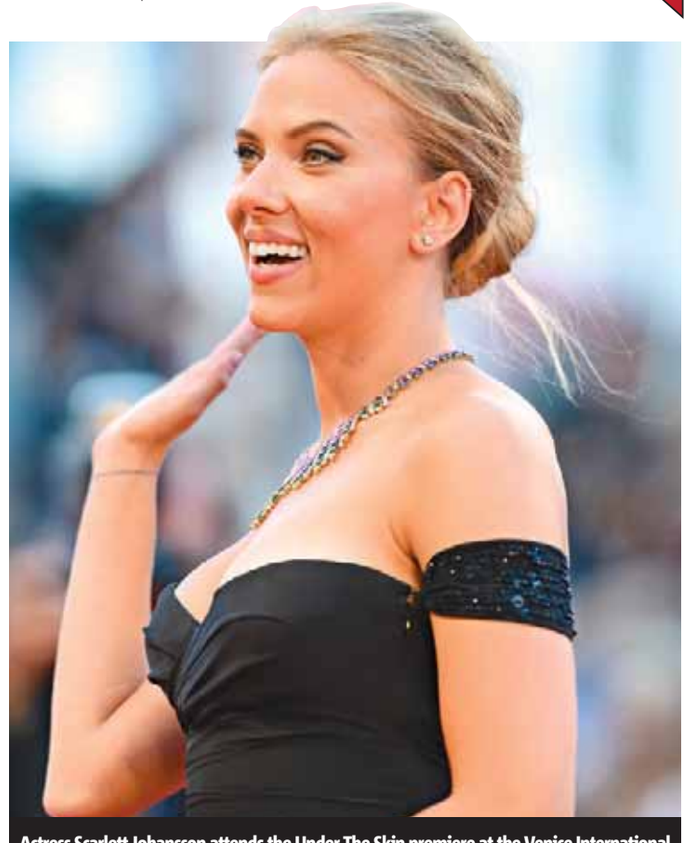
In other left-field offerings, Bullock trades her rom-com reputation for the sober sci-fi drama Gravity directed by Alfonso Cuaron; Jake Gyllenhaal goes arty and surreal for Denis Villeneuve's mysterious Enemy; while Scarlett Johansson stars in Under The Skin, in which she stars as a voracious alien seductress on the hunt for human prey.

Whether it's jumping from a rom-com past to sci-fi existentialism, or delivering a weird psychological thriller alongside a big-budget studio blockbuster, Toronto is a good place to try out radical new ventures, says Bailey. THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hotel rates skyrocket for TIFF

It's getting pricier to find a pillow to lay your head on for the night during TIFF.

- Average room rates at top Toronto hotels for a standard room are up to $800 a night for the first weekend.



Actress Scarlett Johansson attends the Under The Skin premiere at the Venice International Film Festival in Italy on Tuesday. Johansson will be in Toronto to support the film, in which she stars as a voracious alien seductress on the hunt for human prey. IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES

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Snowbirds pay tribute to an old friend

Grade 5 student Samantha Chow looks for the planes overhead as Canada's famed Snowbirds precision aerial team performs a flypast on Tuesday over Captain Michael VandenBos Public School in Whitby. The school is named for VandenBos, a former Snowbird and Whitby resident, who died 15 years ago. Every year, the Snowbirds fly over the school in honour of the fallen pilot. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hiring check leaves city short-staffed

Money-saving ploy. Urban planning, public health and IT hit hard; services suffering, critics say

Efforts to save taxpayer money by not filling vacant jobs at city hall appear to be taking a toll on services.

City manager Joe Pennachetti says Toronto is particularly short-staffed in the key areas of urban planning, public health and IT. Overall, the city had 2,542 vacant positions as of June 30, for a vacancy rate of 4.9 per cent. In the past, only about three per cent of city jobs have been vacant.

"In some divisions, it is high," Pennachetti said of the vacancy rate, after councillors discussed it on Tuesday.

Critics of Mayor Rob Ford's administration say hiring freezes and slowdowns are being used as a way of keeping spending in check, but service delivery has suffered.

Councillors have long complained that city-planning files have languished due to lack of staff, but Pennachetti disagreed that services are endangered.

"We still are delivering the services," he said. "There are some areas where we have challenges in hiring, and we're addressing those."

The city has had large surpluses in recent years, thanks to lower expenses and higher revenues than expected. The 2013 surplus is projected to be $58.5 million but could grow to as much as $100 million by year's end.

"Much of the surplus is built on the city not filling vacancies, which in our view is a service cut," said Tim Maguire of CUPE Local 79 representing city inside workers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"It's a chronic problem. It's short-changing the public, it makes a sham of our budget process and it's a failure of governance."

Coun. Gord Perks, on using the hiring slowdown to keep spending in check

Death of teen hit by truck renews calls for safety

Violet Jia Liang had many things to look forward to as she made her way to school on Tuesday morning. It was the straight-A student's first day in the 10th grade at C.W. Jeffreys Collegiate, and her birthday was just one day away.

Liang, 14, was struck by a construction truck at the intersection of Sentinel Road and Lamberton Boulevard. Witnesses said the driver, a 42-year-old man, jumped out of his vehicle and dialled 911 while hovering over Liang, who was pronounced dead at the scene after attempts to revive her failed. No charges have been laid.

It's the second time this year a child has been killed by a truck. On Tuesday, Scarborough Coun. Gary Crawford renewed calls for increased safety in school zones.

After five-year-old Kayleigh Callaghan-Belanger was killed by a city garbage truck on March 8, he said City Solid Waste Management agreed to "review everything" to ensure similar instances don't reoccur.

Only hours after Liang's death, Crawford said he heard the review will likely take another year because a consultant still hasn't been hired.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police examine the truck that hit Violet Jia Liang on Tuesday.
BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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All-day kindergarten = cartwheels

Education. Graduates seem better prepared for Grade 1, future success: Study

Champions of full-day kindergarten across Canada are elated at new research that suggests children who have been in Ontario's new full-day program for two years are dramatically better prepared — two to four times more — than others in their ability to reason and communicate, get along with others and in general knowledge.

The study of nearly 700 Grade 1 children conducted by Queen's and McMaster universities has prompted excitement from proponents. Educator Charles Pascal, who designed Ontario's full-day learning program, said he's doing cartwheels; early childhood advocate Margaret McCain said "it's like winning Olympic gold."

'Warts and all'

MPP Lisa MacLeod, education critic for the provincial Progressive Conservatives, noted the government has not released the full study, which she said the public needs "to make sure we are getting the best value for our dollar."

- "In order for the government to have any credibility on this," she said, "they should have allowed a third party to do the study and a third party to release it, warts and all."

"After 15 years of pushing the importance of early learning, this is the strongest proof we've had to show that it works — it's very exciting for policy makers across the country," said McCain, co-author of a landmark report on early learning with Dr. Fraser Mustard.

The new research was released Tuesday by Ontario Education Minister Liz Sandals, who called it "nothing short of incredible."

It shows children who attended both junior and senior kindergarten all day were stronger in almost all basic learning skills by Grade 1 than those who had only one year in full-day learning or didn't go to full-day at all.

"We always predicted that a play-based full-day program could improve kids' readiness to learn, but it's great to have solid research that shows what you had hoped to achieve has happened," Sandals said of the two-year study.

Now in the fourth year of being phased in, the full-day kindergarten program has sparked concerns about lack of space and funding and its impact on the demand for child care.

Still, Pascal said, this research on how full-day kindergarten boosts learning "is huge; it shows the program is truly a life-changer. It's cartwheel time for all those early learning educators who are making such a huge difference in the lives of so many children."

Elaine Smyer, left, and Theresa Fedyk met in kindergarten at Indian Road Crescent Public School 50 years ago. They're still close friends today. On the first day of class, they returned to the place where they grew close — and reflected on how education has changed in half a century. ERIC ANDREW-GEE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The study tracked the skills of 693 Grade 1 pupils from 125 schools in every region of the province, once the program began in 2010. Roughly one-third had been in full-day learning for both junior and senior kindergarten, one-third only for senior kindergarten, and one-third not at all.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's already school as usual for some students

Grade 12 students, Courtney Francis, 17, and Haris Raheel, 17. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At Maxwell Heights Secondary School, there were no Grade 9 students walking the halls looking lost. No one scrambling to get their timetable. No one trying to figure out their classes.

They were an organized bunch at the Oshawa high school on Tuesday — which for most students across Ontario was the first day of school. But at Maxwell, students began the week before Labour Day.

It is the third school in the Durham District School Board to offer the early start, after the modified calendar was shown to boost attendance and reduce behavioural issues.

Introduced three years ago, the early start began Aug. 26 with a Grade 9 day, with shortened classes and an assembly — which parents were welcome to attend — and activities all afternoon to get students to meet one another, learn their way around the school and meet student leaders.

On Aug. 27, the entire school was up and running and pictures were taken later in the week. Students even started getting homework, said math teacher Arlene Wood.

"The preparation is the same; it's just a week earlier, but it's nice to have the first week, then a long weekend" to start off the school year, said teacher Mark O'Neill, who teaches geography, physical education and an innovative outdoor phys ed class in which students go mountain biking, backpacking and snowboarding.

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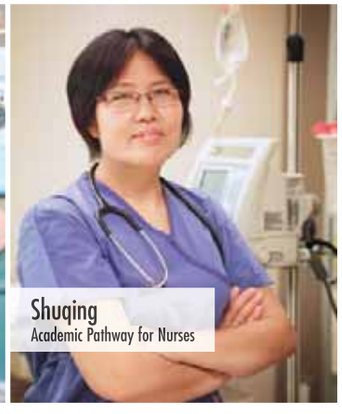

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A bit of a jam. Bakery to reopen as cronut burger probe nearly complete

Employees at the Toronto bakery that created maple bacon jam for the cronut burger were back at work Tuesday, but they weren't doing any baking.

As Toronto Public Health investigates how a bacterial toxin ended up in the topping, staff at Le Dolci were planning an open house where people can try the bakery's treats and check out the facilities. They don't as yet know when it will be.

The small bakery closed voluntarily, but will need Toronto Public Health's permission to reopen, a decision that hinges on lab results expected this week.

Individual jam ingredients, along with swabs from food-handling equipment and surfaces at Le Dolci, which supplied both the cronut and jam for the burger sold by Epic Burgers and Waffles at the CNE, were sent to provincial labs for testing. More than 200 people fell sick after eating the cronut burgers at the Ex.

Farmer's hours

Before the outbreak, a six-person team was in the Le Dolci bakery by 4 a.m. daily producing the cronuts and jam, which were sent to the CNE by 10 a.m.

"As a business owner you're devastated," said Lisa Sanguedolce, Le Dolci's owner. "You don't want to ever get one person sick — ever."

Four staff members sat around a table Tuesday morning at Le Dolci with laptops, surrounded by fondant-covered cakes lined up against a backdrop of exposed brick.

Le Dolci could reopen as soon as results come in — if they're negative — but could take longer, said Sylvanus Thompson, associate director at Toronto Public Health, adding that retraining is usually a condition for reopening after any outbreak investigation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The we've-walked-our-pants-off-for-cancer dance

Participants are shown on Day 2 of the 60-kilometre walk for Weekend to End Women's Cancers last September, benefiting the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. This year's event takes place on Sept. 7 and 8, with a closing celebration at the Rogers Centre featuring performances by Burton Cummings, Johnny Reid and Disco Nation. For more information go to www.endcancer.ca. CONTRIBUTED

Tasered. Elderly woman's fall being investigated

Ontario's police watchdog is investigating an incident in which they say an 80-year-old woman fell and suffered a fractured hip after she was struck by police with a Taser.

Special Investigations Unit spokeswoman Monica Hudon said three Peel Region officers approached the woman around 3:30 a.m. last Wednesday as she was walking along a road in Mississauga.

Hudon said officers spoke with the woman until "at some point" an officer fired his Taser, at which point the woman fell to the ground and was rushed to Credit Valley Hospital for treatment.

The incident occurred one day after the province announced it would permit all frontline officers to carry stun guns.

The use of force by police in Ontario has come under scrutiny after Sammy Yatim, 18, was shot multiple times and Tasered by police during a confrontation on an empty streetcar.

Another high-profile case was the 2007 death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver's airport after being stunned with a Taser by RCMP officers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Port Royal Public School

Back to — sssnake!

A roughly metre-long snake was discovered slithering Tuesday near Port Royal Public School in the Midland Ave. and Steeles Ave. E. area.

Toronto Police officer Stephane St. George tweeted a picture of the spotted snake at around 6 a.m.

"Pets are a responsibility. Prevent lost or escaped pets and contact the right agencies for unwanted pets," he wrote on Twitter.

Police said they believe the snake is not native to the area, is nonvenomous and that it may be someone's pet that got loose.

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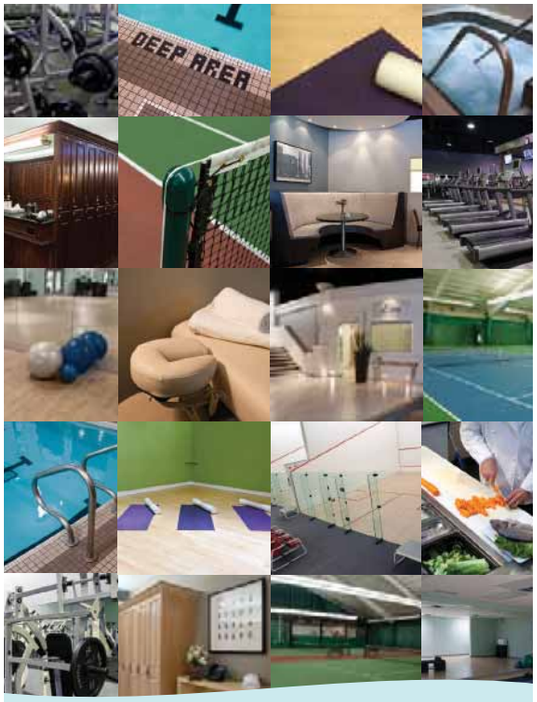

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CODEPINK co-founder Medea Benjamin is removed from the hearing room on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday by Capitol Police. Secretary of State John Kerry and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel were testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to advance President Barack Obama's request for congressional authorization for military intervention in Syria, a response to last month's alleged sarin gas attack in the Syrian civil war. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama seeks support abroad for Syrian strike

Alleged chemical weapons attack. The president aims to convince world leaders, as well as Congress in the U.S., to take action

President Barack Obama this week plans to urge reluctant world leaders to support a U.S.-led military strike against Syria as he attends a global summit in Russia and makes a stop in Sweden. His three-day overseas trip comes as his administration seeks authorization from Congress.

Top lawmakers signalled support Tuesday after meeting with Obama, while France said it will wait for Congress' decision before any military action of its own.

Obama's presence at the Group of 20 gathering in Russia is bound to bring questions about Syria, recently leaked U.S. surveillance programs and especially his tense relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, an ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

That's not Obama's only headache.

His surprise announcement over the weekend that he would seek congressional authorization for a military strike against Syria, instead of going ahead with a strike as many expected, may have caused doubts among world leaders about his willingness to follow up on his threats to rogue nations.

His administration argues that the strike is needed in response to what it says was a deadly chemical weapons attack last month.

Before his White House meeting Tuesday with top lawmakers, Obama said he is confident he will be able to work with Congress to pass a resolution authorizing the strike on Syria. Obama said congressional authorization must send a clear message to Assad and hamper his ability to use chemical weapons.

After the meeting, the top Republican in Congress, House Speaker John Boehner, said he would support Obama's call for action against Syria and said his party colleagues should, too. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Draft copy

Senate Syria resolution sets deadline

The Senate resolution authorizing President Barack Obama to use military force against Syria would bar American ground troops for combat operations and set a deadline for any action.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the draft resolution that the Foreign Relations Committee will vote on Wednesday.

The measure would set a time limit of 60 days and says the president can extend that for 30 days more with congressional approval.

Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, chairman of the committee, and Sen. Bob Corker, the top Republican, agreed on the measure late Tuesday.

In this 2007 file photo an Indian woman protests dowry harassment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deaths over dowries persist

One woman dies every hour in India because of dowry-related crimes, indicating that the country's economic boom has made demands for dowries even more persistent, women's rights activists said Tuesday.

The National Crime Records Bureau says 8,233 women were killed across India last year because of disputes over dowry payments given by the bride's family to the groom or his family at the time of marriage.

The conviction rate in dowry-related crimes remained a low 32 per cent, according to statistics the bureau published last week.

Indian law prohibits the giving or receiving of a dowry, but the centuries-old social custom persists.

Dowry demands often continue for years after the wedding. Each year, thousands of young Indian women are doused with gasoline and burned to death because the groom or his family felt the dowry was inadequate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Boy sees no charges in child killing

Lee Bonneau, 6, was found dead in a wooded area of a Saskatchewan reserve last month. COURTESY RCMP

Saskatchewan. RCMP say boy would have seen murder charge if he was over age 12

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

Lee Bonneau should have begun Grade 2 on Tuesday — but instead, it was a day when information about the six-year-old's grisly death, allegedly at the hands of another child, was released by police.

At a news conference in Regina, Sgt. Larry Brost, acting officer in charge of an RCMP major-crimes unit, confirmed that if the suspect had not been under the age of 12 — the age needed to face the legal system under the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act — he would have been charged with murder in the tragedy at a Saskatchewan First Nation.

"There is no other person at this point in time in the investigation that could be responsible, other than this child," Brost told reporters at RCMP divisional headquarters.

The boy — whose age has not been made public due to privacy legislation — is in the custody of the Ministry of Social Services and is being held at an out-of-home facility equipped with 24-hour supervision.

He is deemed "in need of protection," according to Social Services, while medical and other professionals determine the kind of treatment and supervision he will require.

Lee died on Aug. 21 at southeast Saskatchewan's Kahkewistahaw First Nation from head trauma caused by a weapon — not a gun or knife, police confirmed, but a weapon "of opportunity."

Lee had last been seen walking with the other boy after he went missing from a community centre, where his caregiver was playing bingo.

Lee, whose funeral was held on Friday, was a ward of a foster home just outside the reserve near Broadview.

The two boys did not know each other.

Hypocritic Oath? Hospital lotteries prey on problem gamblers: Journal editor

Hospitals that run fundraising lotteries should take steps to protect players who are susceptible to problem gambling, argues an editorial in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

In Monday's issue of the CMAJ, editor-in-chief Dr. John Fletcher says doctors and hospitals have a responsibility to prevent harm, but fundraising lotteries have the potential to severely hurt people.

"It is contradictory for legislation to ban hospitals from selling one potentially harmful, but legal, addictive product on their premises — tobacco — while allowing them to actively promote another — lotteries," he writes.

An estimated four per cent of Canadian adults are thought to have a gambling problem. But this small segment generates about 23 per cent of gambling revenue, the editorial says.

Fletcher said he isn't arguing for an end to hospital lotteries, but advocates for a removal of incentives like bulk discounts that "entice more and more spending," an individual spending cap and warnings to the public about spending too much.

Dr. Robert Bell, president and CEO of University Health Network, said he was disappointed by the editorial.

Bell said a 2011 Swedish study found lotteries were far less hazardous than other games of chance.

"And, of course, the hospital lotteries do a tremendous amount of good in providing funding." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Priorities

"Have we lost our moral compass to such an extent that we are blinded to our duty to 'First, do no harm' by the attraction of easy revenue?"

Dr. John Fletcher, editor-in-chief of the Canadian Medical Association Journal

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The hunt goes on

Grizzlies in crosshairs. The B.C. government refuses to recognize First Nations tribal ban

LUKE BROCKI
Metro in Vancouver

Trophy hunting of grizzly bears on B.C.'s central coast continues while First Nations struggle to enforce a year-old tribal law banning hunters from killing the animals for sport, Metro has learned.

A source asking to remain anonymous provided Metro with photographic evidence of a hunter showing off the severed head and paws of a grizzly bear after a spring hunting trip last May in the Kwatna River estuary.

"They are photos that were taken by one of my field technicians this spring," confirmed Jessie Housty, an elected Heiltsuk tribal councillor and member of the Coastal First Nations Bear Working Group, a program whose staff have been patrolling and erecting signs in areas of high hunting activity.

"Our technician was invited onto the hunter's boat and had a conversation with him. The man in the photo identified himself ... as being Clayton Stoner."

A Minnesota Wild spokesman confirmed Tuesday afternoon the man in the photo was Stoner, a 28-year-old defenceman originally from Port McNeill, B.C.

"I grew up hunting and fishing in British Columbia and continue to enjoy spending time with my family outdoors," Stoner wrote in an email.

"I applied for and received a grizzly-bear hunting licence through a British Columbia limited-entry lottery last winter and shot a grizzly bear with my licence while hunting with my father, uncle and a friend in May. I love to hunt and fish and will continue to do so."

Stoner is not the first NHL player to attract criticism. Last year, Canucks winger David Booth tweeted a photo of a black bear he had killed on a hunting trip in Alberta, saying: "Just killed a Chara sized bruin! 7ft black bear - 21in skull."

The tweet proved controversial because Booth had used a technique called bear baiting, which is allowed in Alberta but illegal in B.C.

The fall bear-hunting season now opening across B.C. (the activity is regulated by the provincial government) and Housty said it remains difficult to enforce the tribal ban, since the province doesn't recognize its authority.

She argues hunting for sport is also a threat to the sustainable economic opportunities, including eco-tourism, that First Nations groups have been exploring.

"Bears are worth far more alive than they are dead."

A spokesman for the B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations said there were at least 15,000 grizzlies living in the province.

Officials have released 3,786 limited authorizations allowing hunters to shoot and kill bears during this year's spring and fall seasons.

Killed annually

300

The B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations estimates some 300 grizzlies are harvested in the province every year.

Sacred or sport?

"We consider bears to be our close relatives and have many stories and ceremonies that reinforce that connection. It's incredibly offensive to us that anyone would kill for sport."

Jessie Housty, an elected Heiltsuk tribal councillor and member of the Coastal First Nations Bear Working Group

Minnesota Wild defenceman Clayton Stoner with a grizzly bear shot on B.C.'s mid-coast in May. CONTRIBUTED

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Tories mulled limiting entry to ailing refugees

Immigration. Federal government sought options to ease demand on health-care system, documents show

The federal government has examined setting limits on the number of refugees that Canada takes in with health problems, such as trauma from torture.

Staff at Citizenship and Immigration Canada were asked last year to suggest ways to cut down on the number of "high-needs" refugees in order to reduce strain on the health-care system, according to documents obtained by The Canadian Press.

That request came from former immigration minister Jason Kenney, who is still the Conservatives' minister responsible for multiculturalism.

He was eventually given a series of options including a cap on refugees with health problems — such as "developmental delay, blindness, victims of trauma and torture" — allowed from within a specific population group, according to one memo.

There were concerns such a change might create a public-relations problem. Canadians might consider it an abdication of the country's efforts to help the world's most vulnerable, according to the 2012 memo.

Another option suggested was to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to change the definition of a "medical case referral," in order to curb the number of refugee arrivals with "serious medical needs."

A spokeswoman at Citizenship and Immigration, Andrea Khanjin, would neither confirm nor deny whether the federal government had chosen to pursue one of the options laid out in the memo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

$82.9M

The cost of the refugee health-care program had climbed to $82.9 million in 2011-12, from $48.3 million in 2006-07, Citizenship and Immigration data show.

Beautiful women getting ugly reception

Muslim men display a banner reading Refuse Miss World!!! during a protest in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, calling for the cancellation of the Miss World pageant. Hardliners in the world's most populous Muslim country demanded that the government ban the contest, which is scheduled to be held later this month in Bali, saying it goes against moral values. ACHMAD IBRAHIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Germany. Prosecutor pursuing charges against suspected Nazi guards

The German special prosecutors' office that investigates Nazi war crimes said Tuesday it is recommending charges against dozens of alleged former Auschwitz guards, opening the possibility of a new wave of trials almost 70 years after the end of the Second World War.

Federal prosecutor Kurt Schrimm, the head of the office in Ludwigsburg, said an investigation of 49 suspects turned up enough evidence to recommend that state prosecutors pursue charges of accessory to murder against 30 people in Germany who were stationed at the death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Another seven suspects who live outside the country are still being investigated, two could not be found, and one further case has already gone to prosecutors, he said. Those living abroad are in Austria, Brazil, Croatia, the U.S., Poland and even Israel, Schrimm said without giving further details.

The names and hometowns of the suspects were not released. Schrimm said the oldest suspect was born in 1916 and the youngest in 1926, meaning they could range in age from 86 to 97.

Kurt Schrimm, the head of the Ludwigsburg federal prosecutors' office. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cases are being sent to the responsible state prosecutors' offices in 11 of Germany's 16 states. It will be up to them to determine whether the elderly suspects — primarily men but also some women — are fit to stand trial and whether to bring official charges.

Schrimm cautioned that the health of the suspects — and of possible witnesses — would make bringing them to trial difficult.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fukushima plant

Japan taking costly steps to halt radioactive water leaks

The Japanese government announced Tuesday that it will spend $470 million US on a subterranean ice wall and other steps in a desperate bid to stop leaks of radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear station after repeated failures by the plant's operator.

The decision is widely seen as an attempt to show that the nuclear accident won't be a safety concern just days before the International Olympic Committee chooses between Tokyo, Istanbul and Madrid as the host of the 2020 Olympics.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi plant has been leaking hundreds of tonnes of contaminated underground water into the sea since shortly after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged the complex.

Several leaks from tanks storing tainted water in recent weeks have heightened the perception that the plant's owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., isn't able to contain the problem. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrives at Pyongyang airport, North Korea, on Tuesday. JON CHOL JIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N. Korea. Ex-NBA star to hang with 'my friend Kim'

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman landed Tuesday in North Korea and said he plans to hang out with authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un, have a good time and maybe bridge some cultural gaps — but not be a diplomat.

His trip comes just days after Pyongyang rejected a visit by a U.S. envoy who had hoped to bring home Kenneth Bae, an American missionary jailed there.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing ahead of his flight Rodman declined to say whether he would seek Bae's release. "I just want to meet my friend Kim, the marshal, and start a basketball league over there or something like that," said Rodman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Developers of this skyscraper, which is still under construction in central London, say they are investigating the way the 37-storey building reflects bright sunlight — after claims that the intense glare melted parts of a car parked nearby. PA, ANDY SCOFIELD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hot car just can't take the heat off skyscraper

Melting pot. Owner of Jaguar says sunlight off building melted mirror, hood ornament and panels on his car

Drivers may want to think twice about parking in front of an under-construction London skyscraper known as the Walkie-Talkie because glare off the 37-storey building is so intense that at least one Jaguar owner says it caused part of his vehicle to melt.

And that's not all: Locals say the building's heat also burned a hole in the welcome mat of a barber shop across the street. "We were working and just saw the smoke coming out of the carpet," said shop owner Ali Akay.

Developers Land Securities and Canary Wharf said the problem lasts about two hours a day and is expected to continue for another two to three weeks. "The phenomenon is caused by the current elevation of the sun in the sky," they explained.

Burning question

A burned spot, believed to be caused by the reflected rays of the sun, on the doormat of a barber shop across the street from the 37-storey skyscraper at 20 Fenchurch St. in London.

In the meantime, the companies said they will erect a temporary scaffold screen at street level to minimize the problem. They said they have also asked city authorities to suspend parking in three spaces.

Similar problems have plagued other modern buildings, including in Los Angeles, where neighbours of the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall reported heat buildups that required corrective measures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friend takes back seat to marijuana — literally

Two charged. Police find car full of plants, and passenger in trunk

The marijuana allegedly found in the car. COURTESY RCMP

Police in Tantallon, N.S., have charged two men after the RCMP say a car full of marijuana plants was found during a traffic stop on Prospect Road.

Police say they pulled the car over just after 10 p.m. Sunday because it had no headlights on. When the officer walked up to the Toyota Corolla, it was allegedly overcrowded with 20 marijuana plants, which took up the other front seat, and the two rear seats.

A passenger was then located in the trunk, as police believe he was there to make room for the plants.

A 23-year-old man from Brookside and a 24-year-old man from Hatchet Lake are each charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and cultivation. They will appear in Halifax provincial court on Oct. 30. METRO IN HALIFAX

Saskatchewan man

Voyeur to be sentenced in Nov.

A southern Saskatchewan man who has pleaded guilty to voyeurism is to be sentenced in November.

Walter Wenaas, who is 72, admitted in court last week that he hid cameras in private change rooms at a fitness centre in his hometown of Maple Creek.

People in the community were shocked when police found the video cameras in response to a complaint from a client.

A further search of the business and the house where Wenaas lived revealed computers, DVDs and other devices that contained evidence.

The Maple Creek mayor said at the time that the crime was a black eye to the town of 2,500 where people all know each other.

Wenaas is to be in Swift Current provincial court on Nov. 14 for pre-sentence reports and arguments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Was attack personal or policy?

Mayor Stubbs, a 15-year-old yellow cat who has overseen the town of Talkeetna, Alaska, since shortly after he was born, is recovering at a vet's office after being injured by a dog on Saturday. For the honorary mayor, a weekend dogfight was less political, more literal.
SANDY BUBAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Quebec. Last two chimps arrive from research centre

The last two remaining chimpanzees from a research centre in Washington state have arrived safely at their new home in Canada.

The director of Central Washington University's Chimpanzee and Human Communications Institute accompanied Tatu and Loulis to the Fauna Foundation, an 80-hectare sanctuary in Quebec.

The university says a primate veterinarian also flew with the chimps to monitor their vital signs.

The animals were lightly sedated for the trip.

Tatu and Loulis, who learned to communicate via American Sign Language, will be gradually integrated with the 11 other chimpanzees at the sanctuary. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tatu and Loulis get their lunch from Lisa Wilding, a graduate student at Central Washington University's Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute. BRIAN MYRICK/DAILY RECORD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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Microsoft steps up mobile push with Nokia acquisition

Helsinki. Handset deal is an attempt to narrow gap with Apple, Google

Nokia CEO Stephen Elop, left, and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft Corp. is buying Nokia Corp.'s lineup of smartphones and a portfolio of patents and services in an effort to strengthen its fight with Apple and Google, and capture a slice of the lucrative mobile computing market.

The $7.2-billion US deal marks a major step in the company's push to transform itself from a software maker focused on desktop and laptop computers into a more versatile and nimble company that delivers services on any kind of Internet-connected gadget.

Microsoft has been racing to catch up with customers who are increasingly pursuing their digital lives on smartphones and tablet computers. It's now betting it will have a better chance of narrowing the gap with its rivals if it seizes complete control over how Nokia's mobile devices work with its Windows software.

Ballmer admitted Tuesday that the company has to play catch-up with the likes of Apple and Android. "We know we need to accelerate. We're not confused about that," he said. "We need to be a company that provides a family of devices."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft succession

- Microsoft is also looking for a new leader. Ten days ago, CEO Steve Ballmer said he would step down within the next year.
- Stephen Elop, a Canadian who left Microsoft in 2010 to become Nokia's CEO, will rejoin Microsoft once the acquisition closes. There's speculation he'll be a top candidate to succeed Ballmer.

No Key Lime Pie for you

Seems that when little green robots eat candy bars, they opt for a Kit Kat. Tech pundits have speculated for months that the next Android operating system would be called Key Lime Pie — in keeping with Google's affinity for naming new versions after desserts — but on Tuesday the firm revealed it has chosen a brand-name candy for the first time. The Android 4.4 Kit Kat system is expected to launch in October. COURTESY THE HERSHEY COMPANY

California

Is Apple about to unveil more iPhone colours?

Apple has sent a colourful invitation for an event next week amid speculation that it may debut new colours for the latest iPhone. The invitation, emailed Tuesday, has a picture of the Apple logo surrounded by multi-coloured polka dots and the sentence: "This should brighten everyone's day."

The iPhone 5, which went on sale in September 2012, comes only in black or white. The event is on Sept. 10 at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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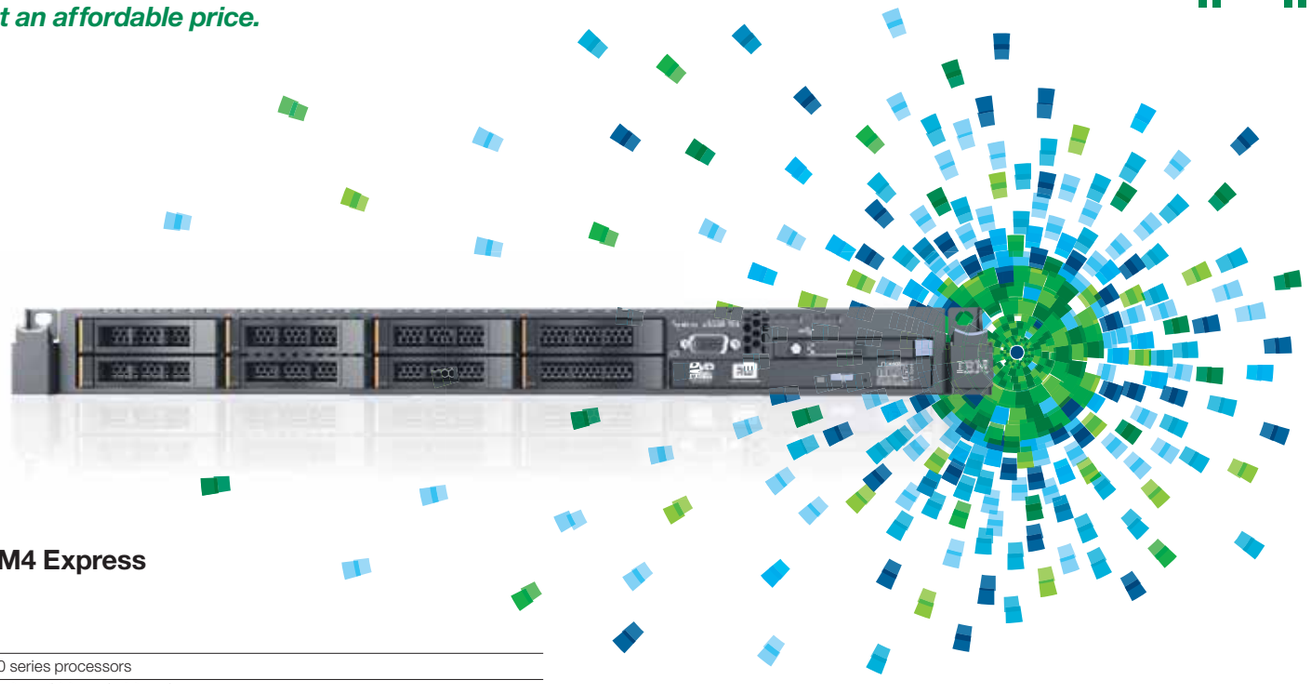

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[1]Source: SPEC CPU2006 results published at www.spec.org. SPECfp_rate_base2006 of 264 on IBM System x3550 M3 (Intel Xeon X5690) published in March 2011 and SPECfp_rate_base2006 of 492 on IBM System x3550 M4 (Intel Xeon E5-2690) published in March 2012.

[2]Results achieved by comparing recommended system to IBM System x3550 (with Xeon E5205) using IBM Systems Consolidation Evaluation Tool (https://roianalyst.alinean.com/stgi/). The comparison is between IBM System x3550 M4 and x3550 (does not include x3550 M2 or x3550 M3).

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JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
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They whack various little round balls with various sticks and rackets.

They run, jump, throw, slide and stretch.

Unlike real athletes, who vie for world records or record paydays, they do all of this for next to zero recognition — a cheap medal, a certificate, a plastic water bottle, a trophy from Trophies R Us.

They get hurt. Sometimes they die. But unless they die, they don't quit.

Then there's Diana Nyad.

What she did this weekend goes into the Weekend Warrior Hall of Fame. She accomplished what she had already failed to do four times: Become the first person to swim the 177 kilometres from Cuba to the Florida Keys, without a shark cage.

If that last detail doesn't get your attention, how about she spent 53 hours in the water, swallowed so much seawater that she vomited early and often, was stung by jellyfish, but like the Energizer Bunny in a wetsuit, she just kept going until she hit the beach in Florida.

Did I mention that she is 64 years old?

Why did she do it?

How about she "wants to send a message of peace, love, friendship and happiness … between the people of the United States and Cuba."

Other people might send an email.

Diana Nyad has had this "Xtreme Dream" since 1978 when she tried and failed the first time.

At the time, she was already a long-distance swimmer who set the world record for swimming around the Island of Manhattan in under eight hours.

Then, life got in the way, but she never forgot her unfinished business and after a 30-year layoff, she tried again in 2011. And again. And again. And again in 2012.

Frankly, I thought she was done the last time. But never count a weekend warrior out. They can't help themselves.

A cynic (that's usually me) could say she's a motivational speaker and author (her books have titles like The Boss of Me) and needs fresh material to remain in demand on the lecture circuit — after all she charges up to $40K a pop.

But really? What would you rather do: Face sharks, jellyfish, choking brine, storms, waves, nausea and fatigue? Or find another topic?

Or you could do what most 64-year-olds do. Think about retiring.

But I suspect Diana Nyad is not done yet.

Not as long as there's still another weekend.

ZOOM

'This is your captain: We need more cookies'

COURTESY REX FEATURES

Flight of the five-year-old

He looks confident but record-breaker He Yide, 5, must have been a little nervous as he became the youngest person to fly an aircraft.

The mini pilot completed a 35-minute flight over Beijing, with supervision — but no help — from a coach. Yide has strict training, which included a controversial run in snow last year. **METRO**

Dad of the year

"When the baby eagle is old enough, the mother eagle would harshly push it down the cliff. I don't agree with the education of most parents. They are too protective and caring, which makes their kid lazy."

He Yide's father He Liesheng

He Yide's diary

- **Early bird.** Awake at 4:30 a.m. each day for flight training before school.
- **Conquering the seas.** The boy has also sailed a yacht in an international competition.
- **Ain't no mountain high enough.** Yide recently climbed Mount Fuji during a storm.

Worth every penny

$4,900

The cost in U.S. dollars of He Yide's flight training. It has not been wasted though — the child's next flight is already planned for Hoh Xil, an isolated region in the northwestern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Was it YellowTiger62 or GoldenCat63? Keeping passwords straight may be easy enough when you've got a one-fits-all setup, but once you go beyond that, keeping your deepest, darkest in the dark gets a bit more complicated. Or at least it used to be complicated.

Nymi:
More than just a password keeper, this heart-rate based authentication bracelet, pictured, not only keeps your passwords straight, it also acts as a one-key-fits-all device. Hello key-free living! Pre-order for $79.

LastPass:
One of the dinosaurs of the password managers, LastPass has been around since 2008 and made a name for itself as the go-to password keeper. Works on all operating systems, free for desktop, $12/year for mobile.

KeePass:
Free, open source password manager keeps your passwords safely encrypted in a secure database.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Hackers are now tampering with cars' computer systems. What should be done to counter the problem?

@Canucklehead_ca: Seems simple enough: make all cars password protected! (All passwords must contain a capital letter, a number, two symbols …)

@Brendanger: Walk or take public transit.

@EastVanPrint: Encryption and closed networking

@almajwilson70: find them real jobs obviously they have nothing constructive to do

@Simpson957: Car companies should give nerds fancy cars so we can work out a good defense against the hackers. Me first.

@OnlyFakie: if cars are generally computers now, why don't they follow computers and have the same security they do?

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Send us your comments: torontoletters@metronews.ca

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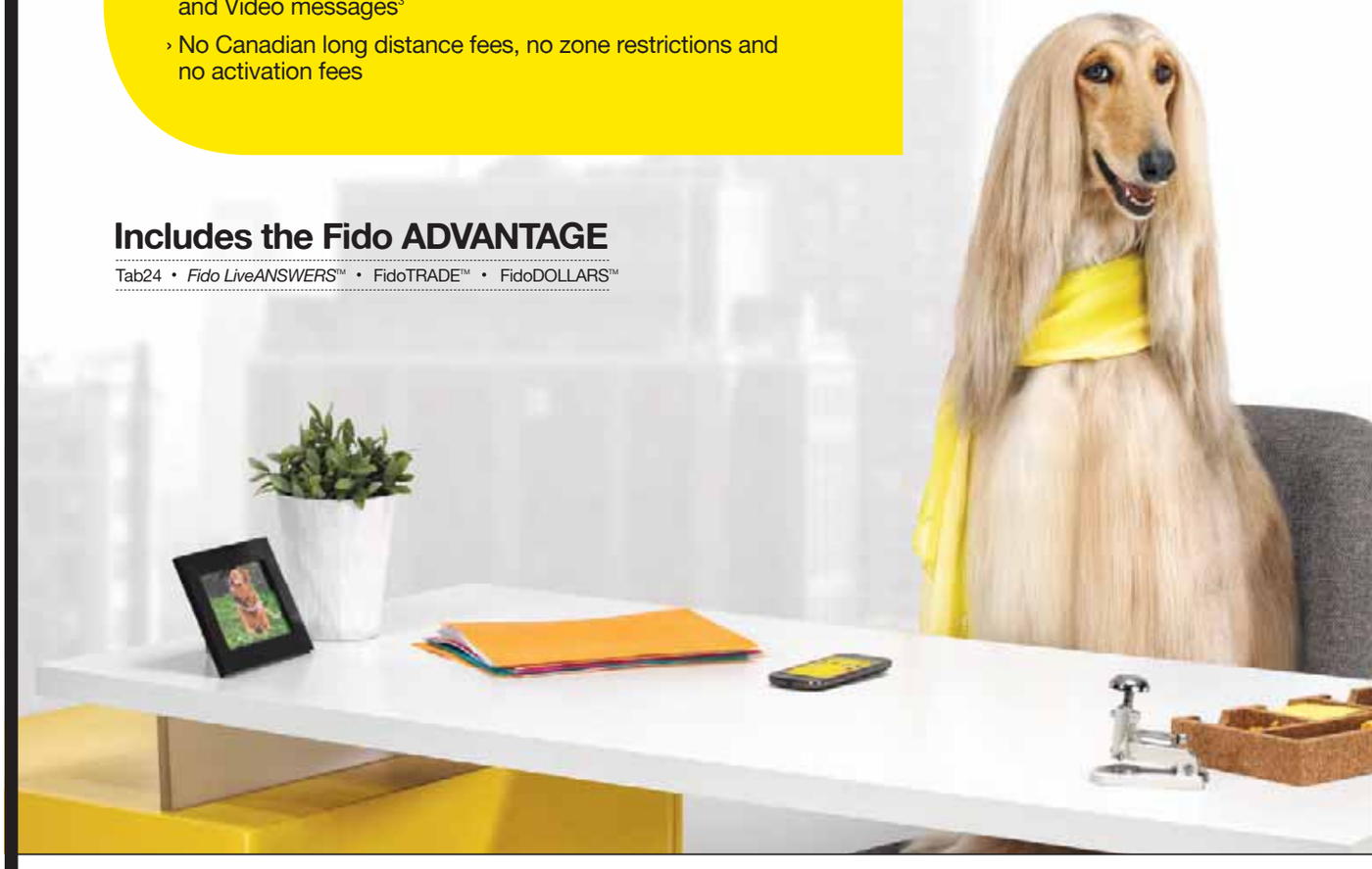

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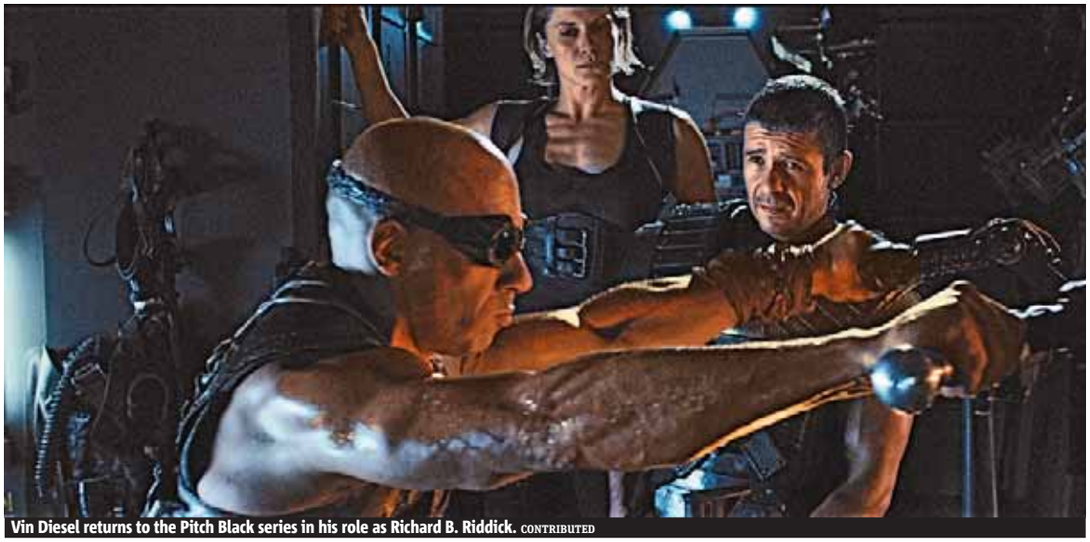
Vin Diesel returns to the Pitch Black series in his role as Richard B. Riddick. CONTRIBUTED

Going from the sexiest ugly man to Richard B. Riddick

Vin Diesel. Few know that the Fast and Furious and Pitch Black star has been acting since age seven and has a long list of accomplishments

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Vin Diesel has been acting since age seven and played many characters on screen, but he is best known by two alter egos.

We'll have to wait until next year to see him behind the wheel as Dominic Toretto in the new Fast and Furious movie, but this weekend he returns to theatres as Richard B. Riddick, anti-hero of the Pitch Black series of films and video games.

In Riddick, his fourth outing as the mercenary-turned-enforcer, he has been double-crossed and left for dead.

His battles with predatory aliens has honed his skills, his thirst for revenge and his desire to return to his home planet of Furya.

Diesel loves playing Riddick. "I know it sounds corny but I feel like I learn about myself when I play that character," he says.

But he's also created some other memorable characters.

Critics and audiences first took notice of Diesel as Private Caparzo in Saving Private Ryan. He says winning the role was "like one of those Hollywood fairy tales that you never believed."

Director Steven Spielberg saw Multi-Facial, an über low budget short film directed by and starring Diesel.

The ET director was so taken with the young actor's performance that he had a role specially written for him. The result was an effective performance that mixed physicality with poignancy.

Diesel lent his distinctive gravelly voice to the title character in the animated film The Iron Giant.

Directed by Brad Bird, the story of a lonely boy who discovers a 50-foot, metal-eating robot who fell from space, failed at the box office but has a 97 per cent Rotten Tomatoes rating.

His searing portrayal of streetwise stockbroker Chris Varick in the 2000 stockbroker drama Boiler Room garnered him considerable critical praise.

Roger Ebert wrote, "Diesel is interesting. Something will come of him," and New York Times critic A.O. Scott said the actor, "may be the sexiest ugly man in movies since Anthony Quinn."

Knockaround Guys is a coming-of-age story with a gangland twist.

The four sons (Vin Diesel, Seth Green, Barry Pepper, and Andrew Davoli) of Brooklyn mobsters band together to reclaim a quarter of a million dollars lost in a small town run by a crooked sheriff (Tom Noonan).

Diesel oozes charisma in a so-so film, tossing off tough guy lines like, "That's about the only thing you can count on in this life, there's nobody that wouldn't hurt you ... if it helped them," with ease.

More on Riddick

Katee Sackhoff. CONTRIBUTED

Being the only girl in the room on Riddick

In Riddick, Katee Sackhoff co-stars alongside Vin Diesel as Dahl, the only female member of a team of mercenaries — but also one of its toughest.

Riddick is very funny, surprisingly.
My best friend is terrified of scary movies. She's going to the premiere and she was like, "How scared am I going to be?" And I was like, "Sweetie, it's not scary."

Do you worry about doing what you're already known for when looking for parts?
I think people spend too much time trying to understand this business when you can't understand it. I don't think there's any real right way or wrong way to do this. Truthfully, I feel blessed that people want me to do it at all, and if that's science fiction and action, I'd rather do that than so many other genres. So I'm good.

It doesn't mean that I can't do and haven't done things outside of it; it's just where fans want to see me right now. You give them what they want, you know?

NED EHRBAR/MWN

Old-school comedy goes quicker, faster and funnier

Package Deal.
Executive producer says character development takes a backseat to rapid-fire delivery these days

There was a time when an audience would hear how a show was "filmed in front of a live studio audience" rather than the rumbling ha-ha-has of a laugh track. City's new show Package Deal is a return to the old-school ways of comedy.

"It was my first time doing anything live," admitted Julia Votch, who plays the woman who comes between three close brothers in this original series.

"I haven't done theatre … so I was a bit nervous, but the first time hearing them laugh at you and what you are doing, it felt so great and it heightened everyone's performance."

Executive produced by Andrew Orenstein, and also staring Randal Edwards, Jay Malone and Harland Williams, the series was to premiere in the spring, and then summer, before being pushed into the fall by City.

It will now air Mondays starting Sept. 30, edged between How I Met Your Mother and 2 Broke Girls.

"For the first time in my career we were actually bumped for hockey," joked Orenstein, who worked on Malcolm in the Middle and 3rd Rock from the Sun. "I think it is a nice vote of confidence for the show that, you know, they looked at our show, and they went and looked at the other shows that they are buying, and thought, 'Well, heck, it would fit in nicely.'"

Orenstein says that in the last 10 or 15 years, the reality of situational comedy shows has changed. There used to be time to develop characters at the expense of rapid-fire jokes, but the reverse is now true.

"The world is quicker," he said. "You have to be quicker and faster and funnier."

METRO

Package Deal airs Mondays on City starting Sept. 30. CONTRIBUTED

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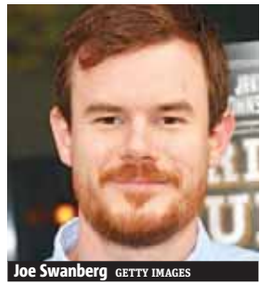
Director's methods works for Drinking Buddies cast

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

For some actors, director Joe Swanberg's mostly improvised method can be daunting, but others — like his Drinking Buddies cast of Olivia Wilde, Ron Livingston, Anna Kendrick and Jake Johnson — find it exhilarating. Swanberg gives us some insight into his writing and editing process and his stringent "no yelling" policy for himself on set.

How much of this was improvised and how much did you plot out?
The plot was pretty heavily figured out before we shot anything. The size of the movie and the infrastructure involved meant that we had to schedule it, we had to lock down locations. We had to know what the story was going to be and even what the scenes were going to be in a vague way. Being my own editor allows me to be a little more open as a director. Editing becomes a lot of the writing process.

How do you go about pitching this sort of process to actors?



Joe Swanberg GETTY IMAGES

It's a very conversational pitch. I talk about where the themes came from, how I relate to the story, what I'm pulling from my own life, and I feel like that's a nice lead-in to discussing how their own stories can enter into the picture. The goal ultimately is to have it be a kind of collaborative performing and writing process, so I'm looking for people who are open to sharing and talking about those kinds of things — relationship things.

Did you find some actors just didn't quite go for that?
Sure. I met a lot of great actors, people whose work I admire, who just either weren't excited by the improv process or for one reason or another thematically this wasn't a story they were interested in telling right now. I mean, there's a lot of reasons why somebody would or wouldn't want to do this movie, but I think people were all curious.

Do you think being an actor helped with that conversation?
A little bit, maybe. Hopefully it helps me as a director. I certainly feel like it makes me a better communicator and it makes me more empathetic to that experience.

Have you seen any examples as an actor of directors' behavior you're careful to avoid?
I don't think there are any circumstances in which yelling at somebody or losing your temper is going to help a situation. A set is a living organism that's responsive to stimuli. If somebody at the top is stressed out, everybody feels it. You don't need to say it out loud. Some people thrive on conflict, though. I think there are a lot of directors that like having intense, conflict-filled sets, and they feel like that produces some kind of liveliness, but I really want everybody to be having a good time.

MMMBop? Hanson singing a new Anthem

Interview. Isaac from Hanson talks about what it was like growing up in the industry and making a band work

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

On hearing the name Hanson, most people will peppily reply by humming a quick chorus of MMMBop. But there's more to the band of brothers — Isaac, Taylor and Zac — than long flowing locks and that hit released back in 1997.

A lot's changed for Hanson since MMMBop. They have 10 kids between them, their own label, they've released a beer called MMMHops and sold 16 million albums worldwide.

Tut tut to those of you who had them down as one-hit wonders.

The cherubic trio are celebrating their 21st anniversary as a band with the release of their sixth studio album, Anthem, which includes trademark soulful pop/rock tracks like Get the Girl Back.

Metro chats with the band's oldest member, Isaac, on the run-up to their six-month world tour. Isaac spills about brotherly bickering, the industry's failings and not giving in to groupie temptation.

Has making your new album been easier than making a marriage work?

I think it's very similar to making a marriage work. It's probably more complicated because there are three people involved. Going into this album we had to make some real adjustments. We had been hitting the ground pretty hard after touring for the previous two years.

It's been publicized that the album nearly didn't happen due to disagreements. Were you working too hard?

It was part of it. We had a different plan for the record — it was much more 2013. The current way of looking at music is just not working for the whole business and nobody is willing to reassess that.

What did you want to do differently?

We wanted to make it an ongoing musical experience but I'll leave it at that. We're hoping that we'll look at that project again in the future.

Who normally incites the arguments?

(Laughs) All of us are perfectly willing to cause trouble. I will say I have a tendency to play devil's advocate quite a lot, so that keeps me in the mix.

What happened during the recording of Anthem?

The initial blowout was because we were working on our fan club EP that we release every single year and we had been up really, really late a lot of nights in a row. People were stressed about what was coming and we were working on the song Tonight at about 2 a.m. We were frustrated with the process and I said something to Zac, Zac said something to me and so on. It ended with a few fists being thrown and people walking out.

Singing till the end

"My enthusiasm for music has never waned because I think music is the ultimate expression of fear, joy, sadness and anger."

Isaac Hanson
Talking about his love of making music

Has your enthusiasm for music waned at all since you first started?

My enthusiasm for music has never waned because I think music is the ultimate expression of fear, joy, sadness and anger — it's a great healer.

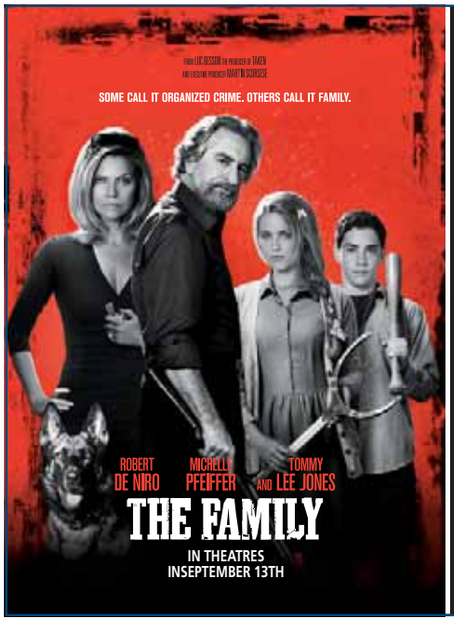
Is it the industry that's at fault?

The music business is messed up. I compare the music business to the whaling industry. The music business is still trying to sell blubber to people who want kerosene.

Are artists too dependent on the label?

Artists in so many cases become very insecure and need handlers to go through life because they allow themselves to perpetuate their own insecurity.

Taylor Hanson, Isaac Hanson and Zac Hanson are releasing their sixth album. EAMONN M. MCCORMACK/GETTY IMAGES



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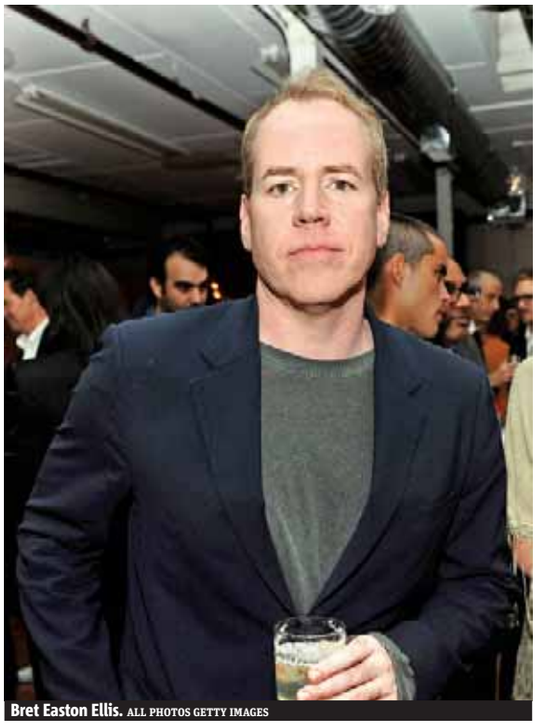


Bret Easton Ellis. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

James Deen as Mr. Grey? Not enough alcohol in the world

While the casting announcements are official for 50 Shades of Grey — with Dakota Johnson and Pacific Rim star Charlie Hunnam taking the much-debated lead roles — apparently not everyone is in agreement behind the scenes of the hot literary adaptation.

After the news was announced, author Bret Easton Ellis took to Twitter to rain on the parade and share some information.

"Talked to (author) E.L. James at a party over the summer. Her first choice for Christian was Rob Pattinson," he posted.

"When E.L. James asked me who I thought should be Christian I said, '(Porn star) James Deen, of course,' and then she shoved me. We were both very wasted."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

American Idol rounds out its panel with latest addition

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

After months of speculation, it was announced that handsome Southern crooner Harry Connick Jr. and former American Idol judge Jennifer Lopez are officially joining American Idol 13.

The two join Keith Urban on the judge's panel; stalwart Randy Jackson will be back as an "in-house" mentor.

And, what would Idol be without Ryan Seacrest? The personality, of course, will be back as host.

"I have always been a huge fan of American Idol and really enjoyed my time as a mentor on the show," said Connick in a press release.

"And I am honoured that they've asked me to be a judge this season. As an entertainer, I am truly excited to bring my perspective to American Idol and to help emerging performers find their way."

For her take on the announcement, Lopez simply tweeted, "#IDOL-2014TheRemix."

Hopefully the addition of Connick and Lopez will help this new season's ratings. This past season was American Idol's worst rated since the show began airing in 2002.

Will Smith

Another day, another sale for the Smith family

Will and Jada Pinkett Smith have decided to ditch their sprawling, palatial Calabasas, Calif., compound, according to the Real Estalker blog.

The Hollywood power couple is reportedly looking to get $42 million for the property, which features a 25,000 square foot adobe-style main house, man-made lakes, a hotel-size pool and facilities for tennis, volleyball and basketball.

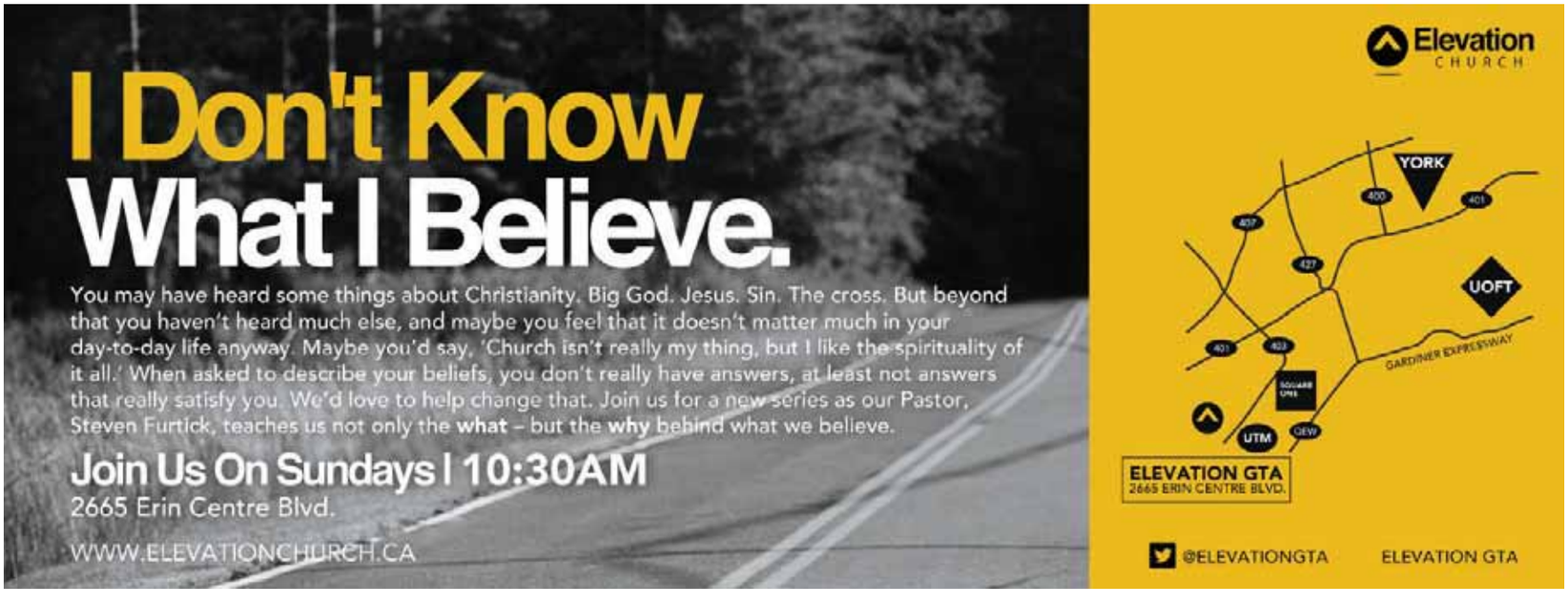
The family sold a property on the Hawaiian island of Kauai for $20 million in 2011.

Twitter

@pattonoswalt
In 28 days, no more BREAKING BAD, ever.

@oliviawilde
Met a psychic tonight who said she loved me on Grey's Anatomy... Thus my skepticism about psychics.

@justinbieber
Another plane. Where am I off to next?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Rum bars filled with colourful locals, glorious beaches, waterfalls you can climb and romantic river rafts. Yep, Jamaica has a lot to offer.

Of course, there are the swanky resorts and infamous spots such as Hedonism, where just about anything goes, including a lot of bathing suits. And don't forget the jerk shacks that waft heavenly spices out over the island and the reggae music.

Diving into the perfect water near Rick's Café. Just watch your Red Stripe intake before you jump. PHOTOS JIM BYERS/METRO

Sleeping

Negril has awesome sunsets and an endless beach flanked by resorts such as Beaches, Sandals and the aforementioned Hedonism. Further north and east are the impeccable grounds of Half Moon, a RockResort, equipped with a fun and not too tricked-up golf course, a sweeping beach and a who's who list of attendees, including Queen Elizabeth and Paul Simon. My personal favourite resort for a taste of local culture is Jakes at Treasure Beach, a spot on the south side of the island with pseudo-Moroccan design and glorious detached villas in bright ochre and pale blue.

Dining

Half Moon features the romantic Sugar Mill restaurant, with a gorgeous patio lit up by overhead lights hanging from gnarly trees. Try the snapper in a coconut-saffron sauce or jerk chicken spring rolls. A favourite for casual jerk chicken is Scotchie's near the Montego Bay Airport, where you can fill your belly for less than $10. In the Montego Bay Freeport zone is the fabulous House Boat restaurant, reached by a three-second ferry/raft. Gaze out on the bay and the lights in the hills and dine on spicy shrimp in a scotch bonnet beurre blanc sauce or a Queen Conch fritter. Jakes at Treasure Beach has a marvelous kitchen. Next door on the beach is Jack Spratts, which serves a fabulous jerk sausage pizza.

The sunsets in Negril are some of the best you'll find anywhere.

Doing

At Half Moon you can take a horseback ride and swim with the animals, who love nothing more on a hot day than submersing themselves in the cool ocean water. Dunn's River Falls is famous as a playground where you can clamber up large rocks and dunk yourself in the cool water running down from the mountains. Prefer to let someone else do the work? Try a romantic rafting trip on the peaceful Martha Brae River near Falmouth, where a local will guide you along on a wide bamboo raft under a jungle canopy.

Drinking

If you must, you can down Jell-O shots or any number of sickly sweet things at Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville on the Hip Strip in Montego Bay, which is jammed to the rafters with cruise ship day-trippers and has a cool waterslide that drops you a couple stories into the bay. You don't want to miss Rick's Café, south of Negril. The water is the most beautiful shade of aquamarine imaginable, and local kids will do handstands and crazy dives off huge cliffs for a couple of bucks. You can try a belly-flop of your own from several spots, too. Take a boat ride from the south shore to the ramshackle Pelican Bar, which sits in a few feet of warm water a half mile or so off the coast and looks to be mostly made up of driftwood, with a thatched roof. Very memorable.

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Catching the big one in the Rideau Canal

Ottawa. The nation's capital is attracting a growing number of urban anglers looking for trophy fish from downtown shorelines

Next to the green grass, tulips and joggers that line Ottawa's picturesque Rideau Canal, a monster lurks in the shallows — the legendary muskellunge, a fierce fish with razor sharp teeth.

"They're essentially opportunistic hunters; anything that can fit into their mouths, sometimes even bigger things. They are not shy," says Robert Fuchs, 30, a professional angler and avid urban fisherman.

As fishing legend has it, the prehistoric beast will eat beavers, ducks, muskrats and even small dogs.

"In the spring," says Fuchs, "a family of ducks will swim by and after a big splash there's two missing."

Fuchs says the elusive muskie — which can weigh more than 20 kilograms and stretch a metre and a half — is just one species of trophy fish that make Ottawa's famous canal their summer home.

And they're attracting a growing number of urban anglers looking for a prize catch.

"Even if it's on my lunch break, if I can make it down to the canal, it takes me 10 or 15 minutes to get there," says Fuchs.

Earlier this summer, Fuchs was fishing the Rideau River along Strathcona Park, in Ottawa's Sandy Hill neighbourhood, and caught a muskie more than a metre long.

"People could not believe it, and it was by far not the biggest fish that swims in there," he says, noting the mammoth creature sported teeth as long as a fingernail.

"There's nothing like it, to be a fisherman and having that much access to so many excellent fishing spots. It's very convenient."

More and more area anglers are forgoing faraway rural fishing holes for nearby urban locales, next to malls or even behind the Parliament Buildings.

"It's world-class fishing," says Fuchs about the Ottawa River, Rideau River and canal.

"The amount of big muskie and pike that gets pulled out of the Ottawa (River) on a monthly basis, it's absolutely astonishing."

Year round, anglers can fish for largemouth bass, perch, walleye, catfish and gar, all from the convenience of urban shorelines snaking through the downtown.

Fuchs says part of the reason fish populations remain so healthy in the area is the practice of catch and release.

He and buddy Robert Conley, 31, form a fishing team known as the "Bassassins," but they're not so much big-game hunters as devotees of setting their prey free.

Fuchs says anglers don't need power boats or kayaks to access great fishing. And places such as Dow's Lake offer picturesque backdrops for your casts.

"The entire stretch down from the locks, where the Rideau Canal enters the Ottawa (River), all the way up that entire stretch for seven kilometres is fantastic for shore fishing," he says.

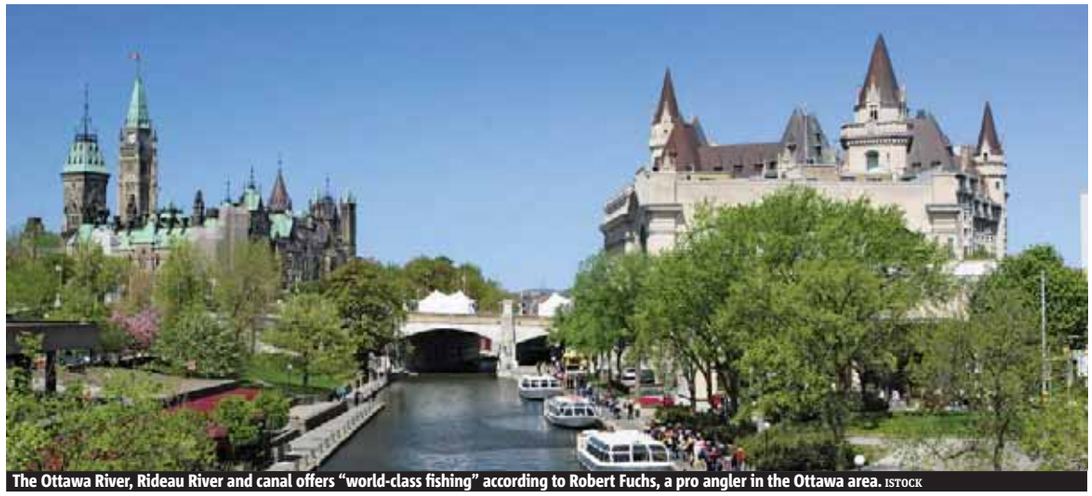
"People are always surprised and ask: 'Is there any fish in here?'"

A couple of casts later, Fuchs adds, he'll show passersby a bass.

Fuchs says more adventurous anglers can use rubber chest waders to venture deeper into the waters of the canal to find spots off the beaten path.

But he says the comforts of the shore, far from muskies or whatever else lurks in the waters, works just fine for an afternoon of urban fishing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Ottawa River, Rideau River and canal offers "world-class fishing" according to Robert Fuchs, a pro angler in the Ottawa area. ISTOCK

You don't need a power boat or kayak to access great fishing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **What you need.** The best Ottawa fishing spots, says expert Robert Fuchs, are along the shore of Dow's Lake, a five-minute drive from the Byward Market. Victoria Island behind the Parliament Buildings is also a well-known spot among fishermen. Otherwise, anywhere along the Rideau Canal you're bound to get a bite. You'll need a medium-light spinning rod with a six- to eight-pound test line; they're generally $80 to $90 apiece. Use stick baits and classic wacky rigs, with a No. 1 circle hook. You can use worms as well, if you want to.

Autumn travel

Put a little colour in your trip this fall

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

New Brunswick's Miscou lighthouse, surrounded by the fiery red peat bogs. TOURISM NEW BRUNSWICK

If you are a leaf peeper the next six weeks provide numerous opportunities for a fabulous fall getaway. The proliferation of maples and birches in Eastern Canada and their vibrant and varied fall colours make a trip in this part of the country particularly appealing.

In Ontario, the Agawa Canyon Tour Train takes riders through an explosion of colour.

The rail cars were fully renovated last year with a camera at the front of the car that broadcasts to flat screens in the passenger cars so you can get a "conductor's view" of the journey. A GPS triggered commentary announces points of interest and shares the history of the region. There are packages available that include train tickets, two night accommodations and options for meals. Book now, as availability is already limited.

If you are heading elsewhere in the province check out ontariotravel.net for live updates on the fall colour report.

Download the app when you head out on your journey and browse the site for a wide variety of autumn packages including a Mennonite Horse and Buggy package.

Nova Scotia's Cabot Trail is a spectacular drive year-round, but at this time of year, it's at its best. Plan a trip in mid-October and catch part of the 16th Celtic Colours Festival.

Running from Oct. 11 through 19 this annual event features community dinners, shows and 46 concerts with local Celtic and international musicians.

Throughout Quebec from the Eastern Townships to Charlevoix, many of the province's ski resorts will be turned into fall festival headquarters with a variety of hillside leaf peeping opportunities coupled with barbecues, live music and numerous family activities. Don't forget the abundance of harvest and wine festivals at this time of year.

In British Columbia they are celebrating the 33rd annual Fall Okanagan Wine Festival.

More than 165 wine, food, educational and arts-focused events are set to fill the roster from Oct. 4 through to Oct. 14. Crowds will gather to pair cheese with favoured pours, sample menus courtesy of young Okanagan chefs and challenge their taste buds during a host of blind taste tests.

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Didn't think it was possible to do fancy on a budget, huh?

NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

This meal may come in slightly over $5 if you don't get your ingredients on sale and you do use the wine.

But it is absolutely worth every penny.

This dish, which features high nutrient spinach in a convenient frozen form paired with high iron chicken thighs and a tasty balsamic vinegar and blue cheese, is yours in under 10 minutes.

Ingredients

- 1 pkg (450 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained ($1.29)
- 1 lb skinless chicken thighs ($4.30)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced ($0.10)
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar ($0.10)
- 1/4 cup red wine (optional) ($0.60)
- 2 tsp dried oregano ($0.03)
- 2-4 oz blue cheese, crumbled ($0.60)

Total: $7.02
Per person: $3.51

Eat cheap (and healthy)

The past two Wednesdays, Metro's Theresa Albert has served up easy to make and healthy recipes that are perfect for families or starving students. If you missed them, check out the recipes at metronews.ca/food. And don't forget to look for the final two recipes in the series on Sept. 11 and 18.

Baked Chicken with Spinach and Blue Cheese

For a variation on this recipe, which serves two, try stuffing the chicken with spinach. ISTOCK

1. Microwave spinach just to thaw and let drain in a colander in the sink until ready to assemble.

2. Break up spinach into large, low casserole dish. Nestle chicken pieces into spinach. Sprinkle with garlic, vinegar, wine, oregano, salt and pepper. Break up blue cheese to spread on top. (Cream cheese is a good substitute)

3. Cover with foil and place into 350 F oven to bake for 45 minutes or until heated through. Meat internal temperature should read 165 F.

Drink of the Week

Hennessy V.S Bramble

The perfect end-of-summer cocktail offers strong, bright flavours.

- 1.5 oz Hennessy V.S
- .5 oz fresh lemon juice
- 4-5 blackberries
- .5 oz simple syrup
- .25 oz of Crème de Cassis
- Twist of lemon

Muddle berries in bottom of a shaker tin and add lemon juice, simple syrup and Hennessy V.S with ice.

Shake until well chilled and strain into a rocks glass with fresh ice.

Splash Crème de Cassis over the top and garnish with lemon twist and a few blackberries.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY HENNESSY

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#WhatNotToDo: The faux-pas of a professional Twitter page

Your thoughts?

@TalentEgg: #QuestionoftheDay: Have you ever studied or worked abroad and would you recommend it? Why?

- **@katieedmonds1:** I worked in Cape Town, SA for 4 months - best time of my life. So liberating to experience other cultures and make new friends!
- **@theToineTweets:** On the last month of my year in Wales. Ironically you get to meet people from different cultures and yet gain great autonomy.
- **@davewhoward:** Worked in China for 4 months - way outside of my comfort zone! As an independent guy, I learned to trust and rely on others.
- **@kendy_ra:** Studied in Chile, worked in Bangladesh, working in Tajikistan. Completely changed me and helped me realize career & life priorities
- **@jaspal91:** Recommend it 100%. I studied in Manchester. Greatest decision ever. So much fun, met great people and learnt so much!
- **@diananguyen_:** in Paris was the best decision of my undergrad career so far. Learned skills you can't learn inside a classroom.

When hitting send impedes success.

How tweet it is to take advantage of this tool. Just make sure you use it properly!

JESSICA CRUZ
TalentEgg.ca

Ah, the wonderful world of Twitter. A land where users post their most random thoughts, check out the latest sports updates and watch in awe as celebrities make gross grammatical errors.

But if that's all they're doing, visitors to Twitter may be missing out. It turns out that the social network can be a great asset to the job hunt, provided the job-searcher avoids a few common mistakes along the way.

Don't keep your settings private

It's OK to keep personal accounts on Twitter for friends. But if you're using Twitter for job searches and networking, your account needs to be accessible. How can anyone respond to your tweets? You might connect with a recruiter who is at the same conference as you, get instant updates on that job you've been waiting for or even win a contest.

Transparency is key when utilizing social media for developing your personal brand, job hunting or networking. It also opens doors for other people to contact you about opportunities and learn more about you.

Don't mix too much of your personal life with your professional life

Remember the purpose of the account. Keep in mind that an online account means 24/7 access for potential employers. The second something goes up, someone will see it.

Post on different channels with your own discretion, or don't post it at all. An open account should not mean unlimited access to your life.

Connect with others!

Twitter was created for casual interaction

- If you find a company you like, follow them. If you find a campus recruiter from the same company, follow them, and retweet or respond to their tweets.
- Twitter can be used as a learning tool as much as a social tool. Combine these experiences and output productivity for your job hunt from your time online.

Don't hide behind your hashtags. If you want an employer to pick you out of the crowd, make your account public. ISTOCK

Don't exaggerate your job title

Keep your tagline current, direct, and about your profession. Use a decent photo and include a helpful link and customized background.

It's good to show a bit of personality, but try to keep the content relevant to your industry and how you want others to see you.

Don't be too controversial

Avoid topics like politics or starting arguments with other users.

Don't skew an employer's impression of your values.

Separating business and personal opinions helps you keep your personal life from affecting your professional life.

Don't be ashamed to boost yourself up

Remember that you're using Twitter as a personal branding tool. It's good to mention accomplishments, events or milestones in your life. Decide how much is appropriate — your online presence may be the strongest first impression.

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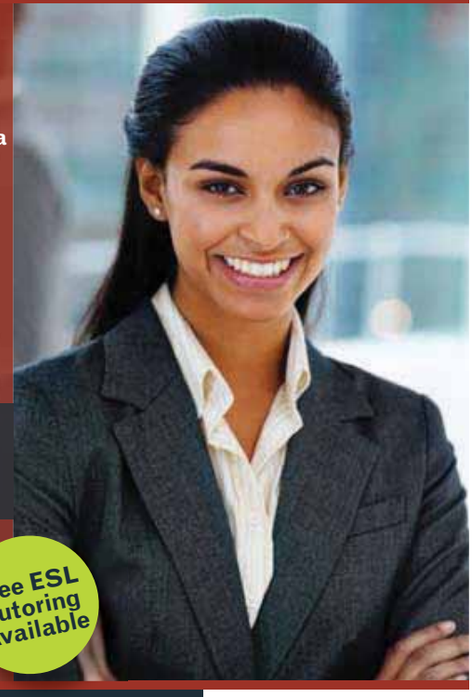

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So am I a full-timer or a free agent?

The blurred lines of business. Being employed doesn't necessarily mean that you're an "employee"

PARISA NIKFARJAM
TalentEgg.ca

You may be finding that you or your friends are increasingly entering into working relationships where you're an "independent contractor" rather than an employee.

Why? Employers often prefer hiring independent contractors for the cost savings. Contractors do not receive benefit packages, pensions or other perquisites provided to employees. They do not have entitlements to basic employment rights such as minimum wage, overtime pay, health and safety protections, job-protected leaves and human rights protections.

On the other hand, contractors benefit from a big (tax) advantage, in that they can deduct reasonable business expenses at tax time.

Despite potential benefits, there are significant drawbacks if a contractor is truly an employee, including unpaid taxes (for both the employer and the contractor), penalties, interest, CPP, EI, and other legal liability (under the Human Rights Code and the Employment Standards Act).

Even if you sign a contract which states that you are an independent contractor, you may still be an employee.

What determines whether you are an employee or an independent contractor is the nature of the relationship; in other words, how your work is actually performed. Therefore, even if you sign a contract that says you're an independent contractor, you may still have rights and obligations as an employee.

As the final determination depends on the individual facts and circumstances of each arrangement, remember that old saying about the duck: if you act like an employee and are treated like an employee (in all but receiving the benefits/protections of an employee), you're likely an employee, notwithstanding intentions to the contrary.

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How do you know which arrangement you are in?

You may be an employee when at least some of the following describes your working arrangement:

- You receive training from the company
- The company supervises your work
- You do not have control over your work, hours or rate of pay
- You work with tools or equipment that the company provides

You may be an independent contractor when some of the following describes your working arrangement:

- You control how your work is done. You may hire other people to assist in doing the work and you (not the company) direct their work
- You can negotiate your pay and when your work has to be done
- You are not an integral part of the company

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A signed contract is not always a clear indication of where you stand. ISTOCK

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Learning in the lap of distraction

I can't compute. Study finds students have tougher time being taught when peers are pounding away at their keyboards

How can these school chums be expected to focus when their friend just posted that photo on Facebook? ISTOCK

Laptops have replaced pen and paper for many post-secondary students, but a Canadian study suggests using computers during lectures could be hurting their grades and lowering their classmates' marks.

For the study, published earlier this year in the journal Computers & Education, research subjects in two experiments were asked to attend a university-level lecture and then complete a multiple-choice quiz based on what they learned.

In the first experiment, which was designed to gauge how multi-tasking affects learning, all the participants used laptops to take notes during a lecture on meteorology. But half were also asked to complete a series of unrelated tasks on their computers when they felt they could spare some time. Those tasks — which included online searches for information — were meant to mimic what distracted students might do during class.

In the second experiment, some students were given pencils and paper to take notes during a lecture while others worked on laptops. Researchers wanted to observe if the students taking notes the old-fashioned way would be distracted by having computer screens around them.

Faria Sana, who co-authored the study with fellow doctoral student Tina Weston, said she expected lower test marks for students who were asked to multi-task during the experiment, or were seated near other students using laptops. But the distraction effect was stronger than she hypothesized.

"We really tried to make it pretty close to what actually happens in the lectures. We found that lo and behold, the students who multi-tasked performed much worse on the final test and those who were seated around peers who were multi-tasking also performed much worse on the final test," said Sana.

Mac attack?

While Sana and Weston are not calling for a ban on laptop use in classes, they do hope students consider that goofing off on their computers can affect their peers sitting around them.

- "A lot of students spend quite a big chunk of time in class doing things that are not related to the academic environment or aren't directly related to the course or the lecture," Sana said.
- "We're hoping that based on these results, students will take responsibility for their actions."

"So you might not be multi-tasking but if you have a clear view of someone else who is multi-tasking, your performance is still going to be impaired."

The students in the first experiment who were asked to multi-task averaged 11 per cent lower on their quiz. The students in the second experiment who were surrounded by laptops scored 17 per cent lower.

"We really didn't think the effects would be this huge," Sana said. "It can change your grade from a B+ to a B-."

Sana also noted that the students who participated in the experiments said they didn't really expect their marks to suffer much from computer use in the classroom.

"At the end we gave a survey to all the students and what we found was that these peers who were seated around multi-taskers had no idea they were being distracted. They didn't think the laptops were causing a distraction but based on the scores of their final test, they actually were," she said.

Seeing dozens of laptops in a classroom is now common, Sana said, as is spying some students on social networks, playing games or watching movies instead of paying attention.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RUNNING FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT BREAST CANCER

CIBC RUN FOR THE CURE
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ANNUAL CIBC RUN FOR THE CURE ON OCT. 6

On Oct. 6, the annual Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure is taking place across Canada, including 30 communities in Ontario. One in nine Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, and 23,800 will be told they have the disease this year.

The families, friends and co-workers of those women play an important role in raising funds at the largest single-day event in support of the breast cancer cause. One of them is Bonnie Stanfield of the Greater Toronto Area, whose daughter, Holly Smart, died of the disease in 2010 at age 34.

Smart was a schoolteacher, had been married for 10 years and was the mother of two sons who were four years old and 14 months old when she died.

"When I formed my first Holly's Dollies team in 2010, I was running in memory of my daughter and for the cure," says Stanfield, whose husband, Peter, Smart's stepfather, is among many other regular strong supporters.

After Smart died, Stanfield learned that she carries the BRCA 1 mutated gene, which has been linked to hereditary breast cancer.

"My reasons for running now also include my gratitude for the research and discovery of this gene."

In August 2012, as a preventive measure, Stanfield, then 63, had a bilateral mastectomy and reconstructive surgery; she no longer worries that she will get the disease.

"Breast cancer research made this possible," she says.

To support Holly's Dollies team, or to sign up for the CIBC Run for the Cure, please visit runforthecure.com or call 866-373-6313. *– Jane Doucet*

Bonnie Stanfield with her daughter, Holly.
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Argos dropped by Alouettes

Argos quarterback Zach Collaros is sacked by Montreal's Chip Cox during the second quarter of Week 10 CFL action on Tuesday night at Rogers Centre. With usual starting QB Ricky Ray out due to injury, the Argos' (5-4) offence stalled as the Alouettes (4-5) prevailed 20-9. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No love lost: Serena shuts out Navarro

Tennis. Top-seed Williams blanks Navarro 6-0, 6-0 to advance to semifinals at U.S. Open

From an ace on the first point to a stinging return on the last, Serena Williams was close to perfect in the U.S. Open quarter-finals.

The score said it all: 6-0, 6-0.

Yes, Williams is looking better and better with each match at the year's last Grand Slam tournament. With two more wins — no matter the exact scores — she'll earn a fifth title at Flushing Meadows and 17th major championship overall.

The No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams shut out 18th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain, winning 53 of 71 points on Tuesday night. The first set took all of 19 minutes. The second was slower, lasting 33 minutes, but no less lopsided.

In Friday's semifinals, Williams will play 2011 French Open champion Li Na of China.

Asked in an on-court interview if her game is peaking, Williams replied: "No. Not yet. I hope not. I'm just trying to do the best that I can."

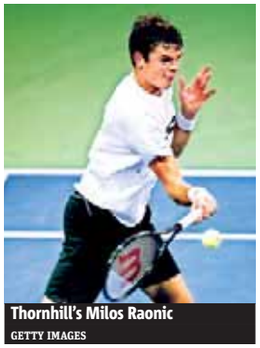
Well, that just happens to be rather good. Through five matches, Williams has dropped a total of 13 games so far.

Williams is 65-4 with eight titles in 2013. Going back to the start of Wimbledon last year, the 31-year-old American is 96-5 with 13 trophies, including from three of the past five Grand Slam tournaments plus the London Olympics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams returns a shot during her quarter-final win over Carla Suarez Navarro on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Davis Cup. Raonic to face world's best in Belgrade



Thornhill's Milos Raonic
GETTY IMAGES

Canada's Davis Cup team is deep in talent. That depth will be needed to beat world No. 1 Novak Djokovic and Serbia on their home court in Belgrade.

Milos Raonic leads Canada into the World Group semifinal tie Sept. 13-15 on clay at the Belgrade Arena. The winning country moves onto the final in November against the winner of the other semifinal between Argentina and Czech Republic.

Canada has never made it this far in the international men's team tennis event that begins each year with 130 countries. Only 16 qualify for the World Group each year. Each tie consists of four singles matches and a doubles match.

"As a group we've gone through events and moments that are pretty uplifting and it's been a year where we've done a lot of things we've never done before and we want to continue to do that," Canada's captain Martin Laredeau said Tuesday during a conference call.

"We're really looking forward to the challenge and the chance to keep alive this great story we're going through."

Raonic, from Thornhill, is the highest-ranked male singles player in Canadian history and is currently No. 11. He advanced to the fourth round of the U.S. Open before falling in five sets to Richard Gasquet on Monday.

Djokovic won the last 13 games to down Marcel Granollers 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 in just 79 minutes on Tuesday at Flushing Meadows to reach his 18th straight Grand Slam quarter-final. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aaron Hernandez

Accused murderer requests delay in Florida lawsuit

Former NFL star tight end Aaron Hernandez is seeking to delay proceedings in a Florida lawsuit until a murder charge against him in Massachusetts is resolved.

Hernandez's lawyers filed the postponement request Tuesday in federal court. They say it would be legally unfair to Hernandez to permit the lawsuit to continue while he is defending himself in the shooting death of 27-year-old Odin Lloyd. Hernandez has pleaded not guilty to Lloyd's slaying and weapons charges.

In the Florida lawsuit, 30-year-old Alexander Bradley claims Hernandez shot him in the face after they argued at a strip club in February. Bradley seeks at least $100,000 in damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Raps dump new recruit Richardson

The Toronto Raptors waived swingman Quentin Richardson on Tuesday, less than two months after he was acquired in a trade with the New York Knicks.

The Raptors shipped forward Andrea Bargnani to New York on July 10, receiving Richardson, centre Marcus Camby, forward Steve Novak and three draft picks in the deal.

Waiving Richardson wasn't unexpected, as the 13-year NBA veteran was only part of the July deal for salary considerations.

Earlier, the Raptors bought out Camby, who went on to sign with the Houston Rockets.

Toronto, which opens the pre-season Oct. 7 in Boston, now has 14 players on its roster.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Raptors waived shooter Quentin Richardson on Tuesday.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Romero given another chance as Sept. call-up

MLB. Drabek also recalled by Blue Jays following his second Tommy John surgery

Ricky Romero started this miserable season on the outside looking in, but he is getting a chance to finish the year on a positive note.

Romero, along with fellow starting pitcher Kyle Drabek, was recalled from Triple-A Buffalo on Monday and added to the Jays' expanded roster.

Romero, the Jays' 28-year-old former ace and all-star, who struggled through a disastrous 2012 season and failed to make the club out of spring training, spent the bulk of the season pitching for the Buffalo Bisons, following an ill-fated two-start return to the Jays in May.

Despite showing glimpses of promise, Romero hardly earned a call-up based on his performance. In 23 starts for Buffalo he posted a 5-8 record with a 5.78 ERA. So it seems the Jays are hoping the gesture boosts his confidence while having him end the season in a reassuring way following a season in which his mechanics have been switched back and forth and his confidence has been questioned.

Drabek, 25, who spent a year on the disabled list after last June's Tommy John surgery (the second of his career), was also promoted after Monday's game. In four games with the Bisons last month, Drabek was 1-2 with a 3.77 ERA.

Jays manager John Gibbons said Monday that while both players will get a chance to pitch, he stopped short of guaranteeing either a start.

Vancouver-born catcher Mike Nickeas and relievers Luis Perez and Jeremy Jeffress were also added to the Jays' expanded roster.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ricky Romero is back with the Blue Jays after spending most of the season pitching for the Buffalo Bisons. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

MLB

Scherzer denied 20th win by BoSox

Jon Lester out-duelled Max Scherzer and the Boston Red Sox beat Detroit 2-1 on Tuesday night, ending the Tigers right-hander's chance to become just the second pitcher to open a season with a 20-1 record.

Lester (13-8) lowered his ERA to 1.71 in his past six starts. He allowed one earned run and eight hits with a season-high nine strikeouts and no walks.

Scherzer (19-2), who won his first 13 decisions, lost for the first time since July 13 when the Texas Rangers beat him 7-1.

Roger Clemens is the only pitcher to start off at 20-1 and ended up 20-3 with the New York Yankees in 2001. Rube Marquard was the only other pitcher with a 19-1 record, but lost his next decision in 1912 with the New York Giants.

Boston scored on Will Middlebrooks' two-run single in the fifth after Detroit's Jose Iglesias doubled in a run in the second.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Bills sign former Pro Bowl kicker

Kicker Dan Carpenter has finally landed a job after signing with the Buffalo Bills.

The team announced the signing Tuesday. It came a day after rookie kicker Dustin Hopkins was hurt in practice, according to ESPN.com.

The Bills have not revealed Hopkins was hurt or how much time he might miss.

Carpenter has five years of NFL experience with Miami, and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 2009. He was released by the Dolphins last month and failed in tryout bids with Arizona and the New York Jets over the past two weeks.

Overall, Carpenter has converted 127 of 155 field goal attempts. His 127 field goals are tied for fifth-most in the NFL since 2008.

The Bills open the season hosting New England on Sunday.

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The 2014 Infiniti Q50

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

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Base price: $41,900

2 Cadillac CTS Sedan
Base price: $47,000

Review. This beauty beats the G37 and will get all your senses moving

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

A new name and a slew of techno enhancements are the first clues that Infiniti's Q50 sedan is something special.

But with nearly every member of Nissan's upscale division switching to new alphanumeric identification along with, in most cases, reconfigured sheetmetal, it isn't the only interesting car on Infiniti's plate for 2014. Although it was thought that the Q50 would replace the G37, the sedan version will remain in the United States as an entry model for a couple more seasons. As of press time, it's unclear whether Canada will follow suit.

Since the Q50 and G37 share the same basic dimensions, platform, suspension and powertrain and offer the same all-wheel-drive option, the differences between the two boil down to style and standard and available content. In both categories the Q50 outshines the G37 by a wide margin and should experience little trouble attracting buyers desiring a well-equipped rolling fashion statement to tool around in. Another important point of differentiation is the addition of the Q50 Hybrid that combines a potent mix of fuel economy and performance.

A cabin that elevates tastefulness to a new level also reaffirms the car's luxury-vehicle cred. This is especially in evidence with a dual-cockpit-shaped dashboard with both 17.5- and 20-centimetre touchscreen displays that operate the climate, communications and optional navigation systems.

Going forward, the Q50 employs a 3.7-litre V6 (same as in the G37) that makes 328 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque, while the Q50 Hybrid combines a 302-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 with an electric motor rated at 67 horsepower and 214 pound-feet of torque to produce 360 net horsepower.

The Q50 Hybrid's gasoline-electric powertrain is virtually identical to that used in what was previously called the M35h. For 2014, the M35h has been renamed the Q70 Hybrid. Its 50-kilowatt electric motor uses energy stored in a 346-volt lithium-ion battery pack located behind the rear seat. The Hybrid uses the same seven-speed automatic transmission as the regular Q50, as opposed to a less-than-sporting continuously variable unit found in most other hybrids. As well you can specify all-wheel-drive for the Hybrid, which is not available on similarly propelled Lexus or Lincoln models.

Befitting of any luxury sedan, the Q50 arrives properly attired, however the Q50 Premium adds heated front seats, power moonroof and Bose's 14-speaker "Studio on Wheels" audio system. Note that the Q50 Hybrid starts at the Premium trim level.

The Q50S adds metal-trim accents, 19-inch wheels, sport-tuned suspension and brakes and a different front bumper.

The Q50's $39,500 base price ($49,000 for the Hybrid Premium) is competitive with similar North American, German and Japanese marques, but with elevated content and eye appeal that communicates a unique luxury presence regardless of what name appears on the truck lid.

2014 Infiniti Q50

- **Type.** Four-door, rear- /all-wheel-drive mid-size luxury sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 3.7-litre DOHC V6 (328); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 + electric motor (360, net)
- **Transmissions.** Seven-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $39,500

Technology

Your Q50 can also be ordered with any number of option groupings, including a technology package with all the latest electronic safety enhancements such as blind-spot, lane-departure and forward collision warnings.

Fuel Economy

The stowage-space penalty is significant, but apart from the performance gain, the Hybrid rates an impressive 7.0 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 on the highway. The gasoline-only Q50 earns a 10.6/6.7 rating.

Design

As for looks, the Q50 shows off its top form with tasteful curves, swirls, bulges and angles that makes the once-stylish G37 seem downright dated and frumpy by comparison. It's also set apart by a hunkered-down stance that reaffirms its sport-sedan status, in particular with the optional 19-inch wheel-and-tire package.

4WD: Getting low down just became a positive

Driving force. Shifting to low power delivers ultimate off-roading when you find yourself stuck in a tricky spot

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

When you want to go off the beaten path, nothing beats a "four-by-four," a truck or SUV with four-wheel drive and a two-speed transfer case. But it's important to know what's happening in the vehicle so you can use the right configuration for the job.

"The two-speed system isn't just about four-wheel drive, but a more off-road experience," says Peter Frantzeskakis, vehicle engineering manager for Ford's F-Series pickup trucks. "If you're in a very aggressive situation, like really deep snow or mud, you can engage the 4Low to help you crawl out."

A truck so equipped will have a dial or lever that gives you 2WD (two-wheel drive), 4High, and 4Low. Depending on the model, it may also have 4Auto. In 2WD, it operates only the rear wheels. In the 4WD settings, it engages the transfer case, which is the unit that transfers power to the front wheels as well.

Get Low

"If you're in a very aggressive situation, like really deep snow or mud, you can engage the 4Low to help you crawl out."

Peter Frantzeskakis, vehicle engineering manager for Ford's F-Series pickup trucks

In 4High, all four wheels receive power at the same rate as they would in 2WD. This is usually sufficient for most off-road applications, but there are times when you need even more grunt, and that's the job of the 4Low setting. "This is a low gear that the transfer case offers," Frantzeskakis says. "This gives more multiplication of the torque that's available."

Simply put, when the vehicle is in 4Low, the turning power to the wheels is increased — in Ford's case, by 2.64 times — to help the truck dig in and get you out of any tough going. You're basically exchanging speed for power, so you can only travel at slower speeds in 4Low.

Tips

- **Know your system.** There are different types of AWD and 4WD, and auto manufacturers sometimes use whichever term they prefer, so be sure you know what type of system you have.
- **Tread choice.** Off-road ability also depends on the tires, and you need tires with aggressive tread if you're planning on travelling over very difficult terrain.
- **Neutral notice.** Most vehicles require you to be stopped and in neutral before you can shift into 4Low.

The Ford Raptor's 4WD system is designed for ultimate off-roading. FORD MOTOR COMPANY

The 4High and 4Low settings should only be used on gravel, mud or deep snow, not on dry roads. The transfer case turns all four wheels at the same speed, and while they can slide a little on loose surfaces, the system can bind on dry surfaces, which can cause the truck to "hop" when you turn, or potentially even damage the four-wheel system.

Vehicles with a 4Auto setting have a transfer case that can adjust power to each axle, so these can be driven in four-wheel on firm pavement. Cars and SUVs with all-wheel drive, or AWD, can also be driven on all surfaces.

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Self-driving cars are in fashion this fall

Autopilot. New-age dealership tactics and forthcoming luxury SUVs are also in the mix this colourful season

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Car culture doesn't have spring and fall collections like we see in the fashion world. But that won't stop us from looking at some auto trends that have been percolating recently as we start the slide into autumn.

All three of the following trends and story lines added major plot developments this past week.

Luxury in every niche

Jaguar released a teaser image last week of its forthcoming C-X17 Concept, which will be unveiled at next week's auto show in Frankfurt. It's a tall-wagon or SUV thing! Jaguar was one of the few luxury brands left that hadn't gone over to the SUV dark side. Even Maserati is in the game now, with the Cherokee-based Kubang. But no sense beating your head against the wall; everyone else has already proven that there is money in those hills. Luxury brands used to exclusively make big sedans and big coupes. Now we have luxury contenders in every passenger car and crossover configuration, and in every size category, from compact to super size. For the record, Jaguar said the C-X17 was created to debut Jaguar's new modular aluminum architecture, and will illustrate "the diversity of vehicles that could be produced using this architecture."

Self driving cars

Nissan announced last week it will be ready with commercially viable "Autonomous Drive" in multiple vehicles by the year 2020. Lots of automakers are working on self-driving cars, but Nissan is the first to give us an actual completion date. Of course, a "commercially viable" self-driving vehicle in 2020 might be a moot point, if jurisdictions around the world don't want to, or aren't ready with the right infrastructure to, give the green light to this kind of ground-shaking change in the personal transportation world. Not long ago autonomous drive felt like a technology that was going to be in indefinite development; now it feels like the technology will not be denied.

Dealerships for millenniums

We spoke recently about how the particular wants and needs of the millennium demographic are influencing vehicle design, but the impact of these 16 to 32 old buyers will also be driving change at the dealership. A recent and major study released last week by AutoTrader.com, revealed that millenniums actually like kicking tires and talking to salespeople at a dealership even more than their baby boomer parents. But the kicker is that the experience goes down hill so much faster for them the second the salespeople get into any tactics, are less than forthright, and/or don't give them the time and space they need to make the right decision. Millenniums strongly prefer a salesperson close to their own age that adopts a consultative approach, much like what they see in an Apple Store.

Final fashion tip

Okay now back to fall fashion for a moment: Those of you still wearing white after Labour Day — more power to you. It's not a fashion hill I am prepared to die on, but for solidarity, I will continue with the white underwear.

Nissan's Autonomous Drive will be available in multiple vehicle types by the year 2020. CONTRIBUTED

The Maserati Kubang is an example of new luxury SUVs. THE DETROIT AUTO SHOW

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your emotions are all over the place and for that reason you are advised not to make any spur-of-the-moment decisions where affairs of the heart are concerned. You could start something you cannot stop.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you focusing on the one little thing that appears to be going wrong in your life when so many bigger things are going right? Whatever the reason you need to get over it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Some kind of setback could throw you out of your stride today, but overall things are very much in your favour at the moment so there is no need to panic. The recipe for happiness is simple: worry less, love more.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You think you know everything about a certain person but what happens over the next 24 hours will show you don't know the half of it. And you'll realize it's a great surprise.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone you are fond of may have done something of which you don't approve but there is no need to make an issue of it. If you love them, you should give them your full support.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Not everyone is as poised and graceful as you so if a friend or relative falls flat on their face today try not to laugh . . . too much. Of course, if they keep falling over there may be something seriously wrong.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Whatever else you do today, don't get involved in other people's domestic situations. Even if you know you can help, your intervention won't be appreciated. Be smart and keep your distance.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something has put you on edge and you don't like it one bit. The best thing to do is to put a name to the problem and then deal with it efficiently and ruthlessly.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What you feel rather than what you think counts for more today. No matter how good a deal may look on paper if your instincts tell you there is something not quite right, you would be wise to turn it down.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Capricorns are not as detached as some people seem to think they are and what happens over the next couple of days will give you a chance to prove it. Be happy. Be warm.

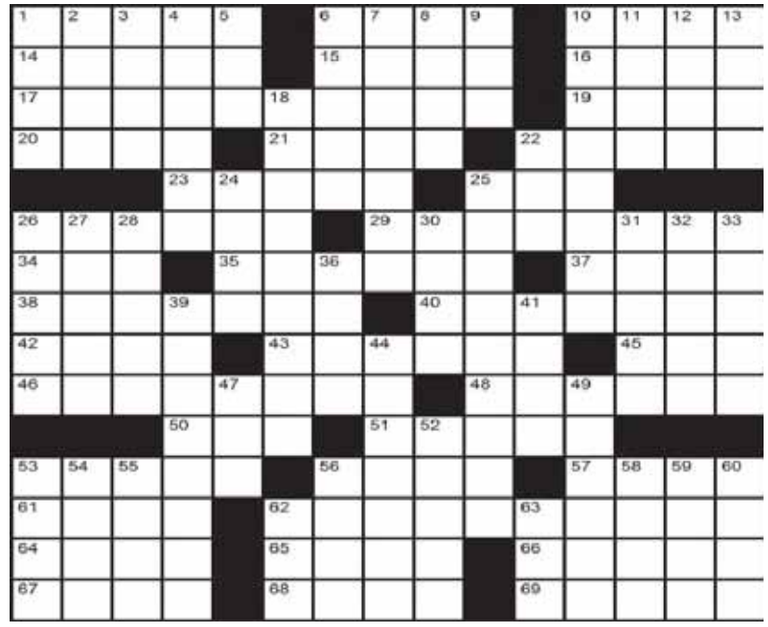
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You give off powerful vibrations that attract people to you and they will get more powerful still over the next 48 hours while the moon is new. Just make sure all these new friends don't cost you lots of money.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A little bit of flattery will go a long way today and will go even further tomorrow when the moon is new in your opposite sign. Just don't say things you don't mean — that's just dishonest. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



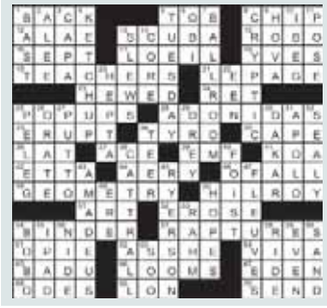
Across

1. "If I __ __ so myself..."
6. Large lot
10. Yarn ball
14. Singer/songwriter Fiona
15. Murmurs
16. Mystical light
17. California cracks: 2 wds.
19. Splashy stuff
20. Drive-__
21. Betting likelihoods
22. Sensible
23. Washing cycle
25. Feel sick
26. Belgium seaport
29. Canadian correspondent on NBC's "Dateline" who is Matthew Perry's stepfather, Keith __
34. Occupational suffix
35. French brandy
37. Robert De __
38. Canadian rowing great/Olympian, Silken __
40. Carol __ (Canadian author born in Oak Park, Illinois)
42. Other: Spanish
43. Rubenesque
45. "Rubber Ball" singer Bobby
46. Kibbles holder, as opposed to water: 2 wds.
48. Facing
50. Gold: Spanish
51. Roberta Flack's "The First Time __ __ Saw Your Face"
53. #49-Down inspired this writer's 'Pooh' books, A.A. __ (b.1882 - d.1956)
56. Secular
57. California wine valley
61. Similar
62. Contents
64. Ms. Ward
65. __ the finish: 2 wds.
66. Abercrombie & __
67. Eleventh letters
68. Queen's "Radio __ __"
69. Ruffle, as '80s hairstyles

Down

1. Electro music's __ Punk
2. Moonfish
3. Prod
4. Magnetism
5. Nevertheless
6. Citric, and others
7. Strongly denounce
8. Egg masses
9. Twisty turn
10. Alberta is named in honour of Queen Victoria's sixth child, Princess Louise __ Alberta (b.1848 - d.1939)
11. Hawaiian feast
12. CNN's "__ Burnett OutFront"
13. Harry Potter's prop
18. #49-Down became popular at England's what?: 2 wds.
22. Gentleman's title
24. King Atahualpa, for one
25. Building designer
26. __ __ Olay
27. "From __ shining...": 2 wds.
28. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
30. Brewer's kiln
31. Region's forest trees
32. Command
33. Rudolph, red-__
36. Chew
39. "Vogue" singer's namesakes
41. Mr. Stravinsky
44. Horrid stopover, __ motel
47. 1990s gold mining scandal, __-X
49. Canada's most famous bear which belonged to WWI soldier Harry Colebourn
52. Panorama
53. Conceal
54. Swedish furniture store
55. Flower type
56. Roman moon goddess
58. Official records
59. Bench press muscles, for short
60. "I think it's __ __." ...said the vet of the newly born puppy
62. 'John Hancock', e.g.
63. Ship's stern

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		4		9		2	
		8	3		1	5		
6								9
		1		7		9		
7								1
		3		5		4		
8								3
		6	7		8	1		
	5		6		2		7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	4	8	3	5	2	1
5	8	2	1	6	9	7	3	4
1	3	4	2	7	5	8	6	9
8	9	5	6	2	1	3	4	7
7	2	3	9	5	4	6	1	8
4	1	6	8	3	7	9	5	2
2	6	7	3	4	8	1	9	5
3	5	1	7	9	2	4	8	6
9	4	8	5	1	6	2	7	3

Today
25°/10°
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Thursday
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CITY (A/T): 9.7L/100KM

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